

*Yester-Years  
of Guilford*

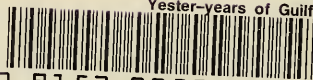
MARY HOADLEY GRISWOLD



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# *Yester-Years of Guilford*

*By*

MARY HOADLEY GRISWOLD



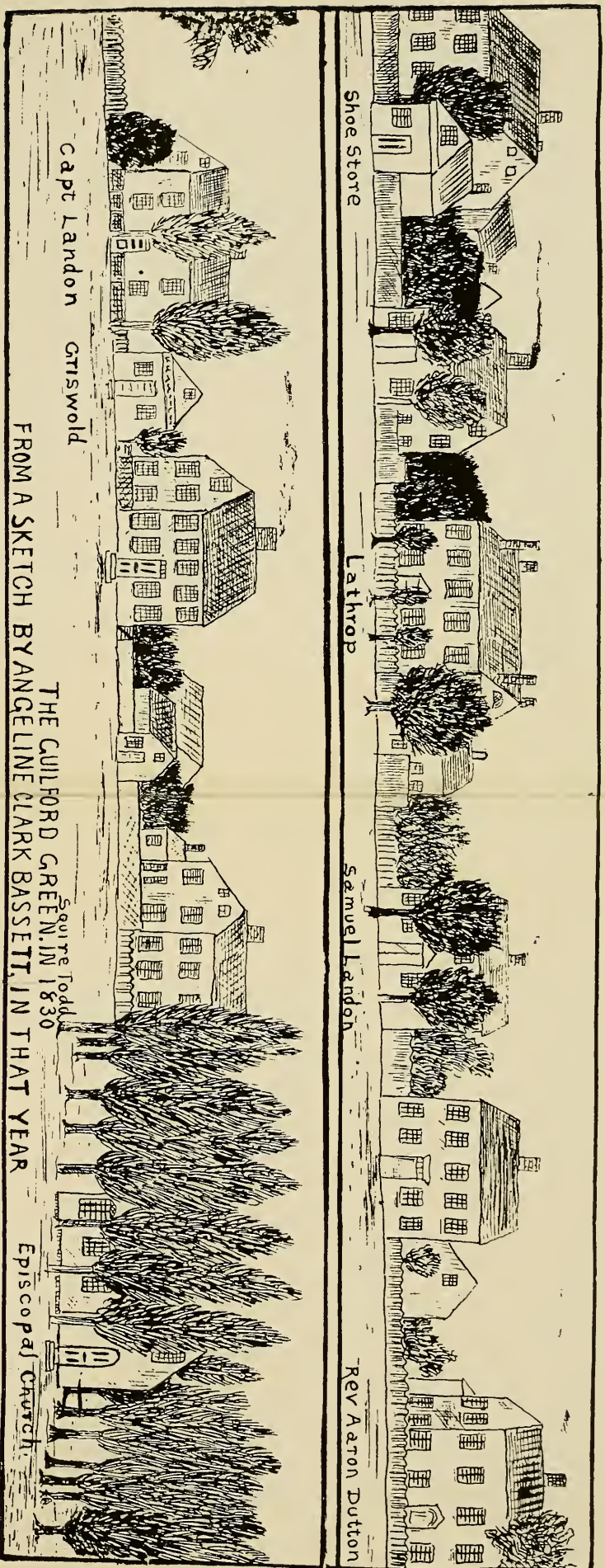
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EAST SIDE OF GUILFORD GREEN IN 1830  
*Two-Section Sketch By Girl of 13 Years.*

Reading from left to right; *Upper Section*: Chamberlain House foot of State Street (Broad Street not extended then); Shoe Store; Ward House near site of Library; Major Lathrop's Four-Chimney House, now home of Dr. F. De Witt Smith; Samuel Landon House, site of Chapel Playhouse; House Built by Stephen Spencer, 1754, now E. P. Bates's Home; Home of The Rev. Aaron Dutton, now Charles D. Hubbard's.

*Lower Section*: Home of Rev. Amos Fowler, on site of which Guilford Town Hall stands; Dr. John Redfield's House, built 1768, torn down 1937; Shop where Christ Episcopal Church stands now; Squire William Todd's House, now Rectory of Episcopal Church. In foreground on the Green, in a grove of poplars, the first home of Christ Episcopal Church.



YESTER-YEARS OF GUILFORD

*To the Three*

MRS. ALICE ELDREDGE LOVELL

MRS. MARY BISHOP BULLARD

HARRY FOWLER GRISWOLD

*Whose constant encouragement and steadfast faith in  
this undertaking through the years  
have made it possible,*

THIS BOOK OF GUILFORD IS DEDICATED.

## YESTER-YEARS OF GUILFORD

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## *Foreword*

YESTER-YEARS OF GUILFORD is the result of thirty years of search of Guilford's records; of accumulation, from sources no longer available, of early names and events; of tracing the history of some of Guilford's old houses the origin of which had been buried in the dust of centuries.

YESTER-YEARS does not include those ancient houses of Guilford whose history is preserved already by historical organizations or by families long owning them. Its concern is with Forgotten History.

—MARY HOADLEY GRISWOLD



## *Lost Acres Of Guilford Green*

THE LOST ACRES of Guilford Green—What became of them?

The fact that nearly four acres of ground had disappeared from the original area of Guilford Green was accepted without comment for many generations. No theory nor tradition concerning that disappearance survived two centuries and a half.

Guilford Green, according to early historians, was originally a parallelogram containing sixteen acres, the distance around it being one mile. Guilford Green, today, contains eleven and three-quarters acres, eight rods, within the curbing.

What happened to it?

### *Nicholas Huges's Home Lot*

The land on which the old Betts house stood south of the Green, now the site of the new Atlantic and Pacific Store, was originally part of Guilford Green, pared off the south side of the central plot to provide a home lot for Nicholas Huges, blacksmith, whose trade was necessary to life in the primitive village.

The record reads thus: "At a town meeting the 8th of November, 1670, the town grants to Nicholas Huges for to incorrig him to work in his trade a parcil of land stacked out by the towne men beside John Parmily's home lott to be his own inheritance at the end of the tearm of seven years."

The "parcil" was measured off by William Seward and William Johnson on June 25, 1673, 21 rods, 4 ft. long, 4 rods wide at one end, 2 rods, 10 feet wide at the other, and was bounded on three sides by the Green, on the south by John Parmily's home lot. And this is the reason for the jog in the highway at the southwest corner of the Green. Tradition.

## YESTER-YEARS OF GUILFORD

states that it was once possible to stand on Jones's Bridge and look east along the highway to the old oak in Boston Street, near the corner of Lovers' Lane.

So Nicholas Huges came and set up, for a time, his forge on the south side of the Green beside the original highway. When Mr. Markham was excavating for the foundations of the Markham Building he came upon ashes and cinders from that ancient forge under the southwest corner of his present building.

As the roadway was subsequently altered to run on the north side of Nicholas Huges's home lot, small strips of land on either side, that had belonged originally in the Green, became part of adjoining home lots. Evidently Huges did not remain the stipulated seven years and the land set off to him was absorbed by adjoining properties.

Now William Plane, one of the Whitfield Company, had his home lot assigned to him in Whitfield Street, reaching up to the Green. He was executed in New Haven after a few years, his widow married John Parmelee, Jr., and brought with her into the Parmelee family the real estate of her first husband. Thus reads the record: "John Parmalee married the widow plaine and soo these tow parsells of land . . . as they are here teriord became his possession . . . this six day of Aprill, 1668."

After the death of his wife, formerly the Widow Plane, John Parmelee married another wife. Their son was Stephen Parmelee, who married, in 1693, Elizabeth Baldwin. They lived here until 1710, when they traded property with Josiah Rossiter of Guilford, deeding to him "one messauge or tenement, his home lot, 1 acre more or less with buildings." The land Stephen Parmelee got in return from Josiah Rossiter was located at "Newtown on the Stratford River," and was described as "Sherman's Farm." Josiah's wife was Sarah Sherman, daughter of the Honorable Samuel Sherman of Woodbury.

So the Stephen Parmelees went to live in Newtown and Josiah Rossiter brought his family to live south side of Guilford Green. Josiah was a son of the distinguished Dr. Bryan Rossiter

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and became one of the principal men of Guilford. He was town clerk, deputy at the general court, judge of the New Haven County Court and of the County Court of Probate. He died in 1716 but this was the home of the Rossiters until 1781, when the heirs sold the homestead, now reduced to three-quarters of an acre, to Henry Hill.

The new owner was no less distinguished than the former family. Henry Hill was the grandson of the renowned Colonel Samuel Hill, whose residence was next east of the Hyland House. He was a worthy successor of his grandfather and of his uncle, Nathaniel Hill, in offices of public trust, his father having died early. He died in 1827 and with him ended the Hill dynasty in local politics, but his son, George Hill, was consul to Asia Minor and a poet, a contemporary of Halleck.

By the authority of her husband's will, Leah Hill, widow of Henry Hill, sold the homestead in 1828 to pay his debts. Henry W. Chittenden owned it for ten years, selling it, in 1838, to Henry H. Eliot.

Prelate Demick was the next owner for two short years. Of him nothing is known now beyond the fact of his tenure but the name is an unusual one. Whoever he was he leased ground to Albert Wildman before he quitclaimed the property to Samuel Eliot in 1841 and disappeared from the records.

Thirteen days later Samuel Eliot sold to Abigail Franklin. By 1861 she was dead and the property passed to Laura Betts, the land being now diminished to one-half acre. In the Betts family the property remained until Laura Betts sold it to Charles Williams in 1902.

Clarence Markham, the next owner, came to Guilford in 1896. For a time he conducted his jewelry business in a store in the Norton Block, Water Street, then moved, in 1900, to the building of J. Harrison Monroe, on the corner. In 1902 he bought the old Betts house from Charles Williams, cut off the east wing and moved it into the rear yard and built, in its place, the Markham Building, which houses the jewelry store on the

## YESTER-YEARS OF GUILFORD

first floor, with the family apartment on the second and third floors.

The old Betts house was taken down in 1935, when Mr. Markham replaced it with a modern store, now leased to the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.

Some yet remember the spacious porch over the front door, with its built-in benches, and the picket fence which shut in the tiny dooryard. These went when the street was widened and the sidewalk moved back. Mr. Markham kept the original front windows, casements opening out, and placed them on the wing in the rear of his store where they are now.

### *Samuel Baldwin's Home Lot*

In 1676 the Town of Guilford again had need of a central home lot wherewith to induce another blacksmith, Samuel Baldwin, to forsake Fairfield and ply his craft in Guilford. All the land around Guilford Green had already been assigned to owners. What could the Town Fathers do in this emergency?

What the Town Fathers did do was to shear a strip of land off the east side of Guilford Green, toward the south, and deed it to Samuel Baldwin and his heirs and assigns forever.

To understand this it is necessary to visualize the original layout of this land. Imagine State Street, or Crooked Lane, not ending at the northeast corner of the Green, as now, but extending on to meet Boston Street or East Lane. Then imagine Guilford Green extending eastward from its present boundary, over the ground now occupied by Park Street and over a section of the present home lots on the east of the Green to meet this extension of State Street.

Thus the language of the town's deed of land to Blacksmith Baldwin, hitherto incomprehensible, becomes clear of meaning. It reads: "One-half acre of land UPON THE GREEN, between John Bishop's barn and the sawpit, ALL



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ALONG AGAINST THE FRONT OF JOHN BISHOP'S HOME LOT, according as it is there laid out."

Immediately there arises the tradition that John Bishop's home lot of seven acres faced the east side of Guilford Green. It did. But it was the original Green that it faced. When the Green receded to the westward and Samuel Baldwin's long, narrow home lot was contrived between the original Bishop home lot and the diminished Green, there was no outlet for the Bishop acres on the later Green frontage except by buying land of Samuel Baldwin. And that is exactly what happened. The second and third generation of Bishops obtained the northern part of Samuel Baldwin's land by an exchange effected in 1696. Not until then did the Bishop family build houses facing the Green's east side, none of which survive today.

In fact there is but one house standing now that was built by a member of the Bishop family on or near the original home lot. This is the third-period house of Captain Nathaniel Bishop, in Boston Street near the southeast corner of the Green, owned now by Mr. and Mrs. John Maljkovich.

The crook in Park Street, near the former Third Church, reveals where Samuel Baldwin's improvised home lot stopped. It lay "all along against the front of John Bishop's home lot" which was east of it. North of it was the "saw pitt," probably the place on the original northeast corner of the Green to which the first settlers hauled their newly-felled trees to be sawed and hewn into timbers and lumber for those first houses, which had to be built as rapidly and efficiently as possible. This bit of land could easily be, and doubtless was, absorbed by the Jones-Meigs home lot on which it bordered, and which extended north to Union Street. Crooked Lane was necessarily cut short off at the northeast corner of the Green and the present Park Street was substituted for the part of the original Crooked Lane which had to be sacrificed to meet the smithian emergency.

The early house of John Bishop, the settler, stood probably where the house, now the home of George Travers, was built in 1844. Such an old house is mentioned in the inventory of

## YESTER-YEARS OF GUILFORD

Captain Nathaniel Bishop's estate in 1769, at which time the present house had been erected. Yet another house stood on the original Bishop home lot, which extended to the ground where Graves Avenue was opened about 1850, this being then a private road through Graves's land. This house was remembered by people lately living. It was of the salt box, or second period type, stood on or in front of the site of Raymond Rolf's bungalow and was probably the home of Ebenezer Bishop, an uncle of Captain Nathaniel Bishop.

Samuel Baldwin, having obtained title to his long, narrow home lot, built his house on or near the site of the later house now owned by Thomas H. Landon. After a time he found the land not lying to his liking. A trade of land was arranged between him and his next neighbors on the east, Widow Susannah Bishop and her son, Sergeant John Bishop (the third John). By this trade the Baldwin lot secured more land east of the dooryard with a frontage on the "common country road," now Boston Street. The Bishop lot obtained an outlet on the Green frontage in exchange for the acres lying just behind the narrow strip that was Baldwin land.

The bargain was made but, before the deeds could be signed, Samuel Baldwin died, in January, 1696, and the year was in December before the General Court empowered Widow Abigail Baldwin to sign her husband's name to the deed. Finally this was done and the north part of Blacksmith Baldwin's home lot became Bishop property. Sergeant Bishop built a house where the Third Church or Chapel Playhouse stands. Samuel Bishop, a brother of the elder Nathaniel, soon built a salt-box house where the Town Hall now stands. In 1739 another blacksmith, Stephen Spencer, lately come to town, bought Sergeant John Bishop's house. He sold this to Lewis Fairchild in 1754, having built for himself a new and more modern house, the one now owned by E. P. Bates. So the east side of Guilford Green was filling up with dwellings.

Samuel Baldwin, the blacksmith, having died, his son, Timothy Baldwin, a weaver, owned the Baldwin homestead.



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Nathaniel Bishop, Sr., the neighbor on the east, died in 1714. The young men, Timothy Baldwin and Nathaniel Bishop, Jr., in 1720, arranged another trade of land. By this, Baldwin acquired more land in the rear while Nathaniel Bishop, Jr., regained the lot on the "common country road" that earlier Bishops had traded to Samuel Baldwin. This was the land on which Captain Nathaniel Bishop, later in life, built the present Maljkovich house.

In 1721 Timothy Baldwin and his wife, Bathsheba, sold their homestead on the southeast corner of Guilford Green to David Naughty, merchant, late of Boston. They removed to North Guilford and many illustrious descendants have traced their lineage to that home high in North Guilford hills.

### *Captain Nathaniel Bishop House*

It was, then, on June 13, 1720, that young Nathaniel Bishop bought land from Timothy Baldwin on the west side of his deceased father, Nathaniel Bishop's, homestead. On December 12 of the same year he married Abigail Stone, but he seems to have continued living in the old house of his ancestors until his fortune was made. He went to sea and became a sea-captain, commanding probably one of those vessels which were built in Guilford shipyards for the West India trade, carrying down cargoes of animals and farm produce and bringing home rum, molasses and other products of the tropical islands. He accumulated money and gear, for the inventory of his estate fills several pages of the probate record. He was a farmer, as well as a sea captain, not an unusual combination in his day. The inventory valued his estate at 2,347 pounds, nearly \$12,000, a considerable fortune for that time.

Captain Nathaniel Bishop's house today bears evidence that it was built by a man of means. When Captain Nathaniel died in 1769 the house was unfinished, for both will and inventory mention "bords," sash and glass for finishing the house.

Captain Nathaniel Bishop was sorely bereaved a few years before his own death. A son, Beriah Bishop, living north side

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of the Green, died in 1756; his wife and their oldest daughter, Abigail Scovil, died in one year, 1758; his youngest son, Levi Bishop, in 1760.

The ownership of Captain Nathaniel Bishop's homestead passed to his grandsons, John Scovil, Jr., and Daniel Scovil. By 1790 the Scovils had sold the house to Daniel Stanton, who opened a store on the home lot. He sold out to Dolly Stanton of Killingworth (Clinton) in 1798.

Dolly Stanton sold the place in 1816 to Abel Kimberly, who owned it until 1829. Then he sold to Richard Holmes, who continued in business until business became over-complicated. The title passed to William C. Taylor & Company of New York in 1841. Through the next three years Harry B. Fowler was acquiring the title. He sold to Samuel Landon on April 18, 1844.

Immediately Samuel Landon set off the east part of the home lot and the barn thereon to his son, Charles W. Landon, who built, probably the same year, the house now the home of George Travers. Charles W. Landon sold to Russell Crampton in 1848. Samuel Landon lived on in the older house until his death in 1886, forty-two years in all.

So broken up into small parcels are the original home lots of the two men, John Bishop and Samuel Baldwin, that it was necessary to trace the origin of every present house as far east as the Hyland House and as far north as the former Third Church property in order to trace the history of Captain Nathaniel Bishop's house which has served as a marker above the submerged land divisions of Guilford's earliest years.

## *The Naughtys Of Guilford*

THE home lot of Samuel Baldwin, the blacksmith, which the town fathers had contrived for him by cutting a section off the east side of Guilford Green, passed into the possession of David Naughty, late of Boston, in 1721, when Timothy and Bathsheba Baldwin sold to him the half-acre and more of land, the dwelling, barn and orchard.

David Naughty and his wife, Ruth, at once opened a store on the place, David having been a merchant in Boston. After his death in 1739 goods in the store and wine in the cellar were inventoried at 658 pounds. His worldly estate included a herd of cattle and two horses. His debts in Boston, paid by his widow in settling his estate, amounted to 2,252 pounds.

Peter Naughty, a brother of David, was living in North Guilford in 1731 when David, "for love and brotherly affection" deeded to Peter "my home lot in Cohabitation". And Peter had children; David, not yet 21, named for his uncle and heir to his property when Madame Naughty should marry a second husband or die; Ruth and Joanne Naughty, to whom Uncle David willed a mourning suit each; Margot Naughty who was to receive nothing by special instructions in the will.

The Naughtys had slaves, Montrose and Phillis, who had one son, Pompey, at the time of David Naughty's death in 1739. For their future, and the future of any children that might thereafter be born to Montrose and Phillis, David Naughty made provision in his will. They were to be set free after the death of Madame Naughty. A house was to be built for them on a lot of land near the Naughty farm in Nut Plains, the lot to belong to Montrose, the house to be furnished and ten pounds yearly to be paid to them by his nephew and

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heir. Pompey was to have 50 pounds outright and to be fitted with his master's best suit "and all things comparable to said suit from top to toe". The rest of his wearing apparel was to go to Montrose.

David Naughty had set his heart upon having the estate he was leaving, lands in Saybrook, Litchfield, North Guilford, Nut Plains and Guilford, as well as movable property, always in the Naughty name and made careful provision to that end. But the futility of human planning becomes painfully apparent for the century had not closed before all had passed from the hands of his nephew and heir.

Madame Naughty never married again and so never was reduced to "my best bed and furniture and my best silver tankard", which was all that David's widow was "to enjoy of my estate after such marriage". Instead she took efficient command of affairs and, in spite of the co-executorship of Nephew David after he became of age, she was able to pay up all her husband's debts and leave a considerable estate when she died in 1773.

After the death of David Naughty in 1739, three more children were born to Montrose and Phillis. These were Moses, Aaron and Candace. For them all Madame Naughty, also, made generous provision in her will. The older slaves were to be set free and some of her jewelry and silk garments were to be sold for their maintenance. Pompey had been provided for by her husband's will. But as for the younger Negroes, Moses, Aaron and Candace, it seemed to Madame Naughty not well to set them adrift in a world with which they were unfitted to cope. So, notwithstanding the provision of freedom made in her husband's will, Madame Naughty indentured the three for life.

Candace, then about 22 years old, was committed to Ebenezer and Ann Parmelee in the Hyland House and after their death Candace was to go to their son-in-law and daughter, Ensign Hooker Bartlett and Ruth Bartlett. Candace went to her new home with most of the personal possessions of her late





DR. JOHN REDFIELD'S HOUSE, BUILT 1768, TORN DOWN 1937





JARED LEETE'S HOME, BROAD STREET





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mistress. But Mrs. Ebenezer Parmelee died in 1789, Ebenezer Parmelee and Hooker Bartlett and his wife were already dead and there was no one with legal claim so that Candace automatically became free at the age of 38. A glimpse of her in later years is given in the story of the Weld family in which she is mentioned as "poor old worn-out Candace, going here and there for the accommodation of the public, sometimes washing, sometimes making wedding cake."

Aaron was placed in the family of Levi Hubbard, builder of the Black House, and went with them to New Haven when they sold the house to Nicholas Loyselle.

Moses became the servant of the Rev. Amos Fowler whose home site is now occupied by the Town Hall. Moses was the thrifty and prudent servant who sent to college the son of his improvident master. He had been allowed to work out and had saved his wages and when the family problem came up he said "I got money, I send him to college". And so it was done.

The nephew, David Naughty II, had to wait some years after the death of his uncle to enter upon his inheritance for Madame Naughty outlived her husband more than thirty years. He was past middle age when he became the owner of the "house in town" and other landed estate of his uncle. That he occupied Madame Naughty's house for a few years after her death is evident for he was in litigation with his neighbor, John Redfield, whose home was the so-called Monroe house, which stood next south of the Town Hall until November, 1937. Six years after Madame Naughty's death, John Redfield obtained judgment against David Naughty II "for surrendering seison and possession" of land at Quonapaug, Nut Plains and 100 rods in "the town platt". Sheriff Hooker Bartlett served the papers on Naughty and delivered "turf and twig" on the premises. But the next spring, April 12, 1780, for "100 lawful money", John Redfield deeded back to David Naughty the land at Nut Plains and Quonapaug, retaining "the town platt" land.

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David Naughty II then lived on the Nut Plains farm until 1795 when he sold the "home lot where I now live, with dwelling house, etc.," to Samuel Evarts, father of Nathaniel Evarts and great great grandfather of Mrs. Alice Eldridge Lovell. Part of this home lot he had previously, in 1790, deeded to his son, David Naughty, Jr.

Parcel by parcel, between 1779 and 1795, David Naughty II sold all the land in Guilford that his uncle had acquired so happily sixty years earlier in the expectation that his estate would remain in the Naughty name forever and a day. And now, two centuries later, the name remains only in connection with a lot in Nut Plains known as the Naughty Lot and the tradition that David Naughty II desired to be buried with his head out of ground that he might glare at his enemy from the burying ground on the Green—across from John Redfield's house.

The home of Thomas H. Landon stands approximately on the site of the Baldwin-Naughty house which fell into Dr. John Redfield's hands in 1779. Here, in 1780, Dr. John Redfield built the mansion house which, with its quarter-acre at the southeast corner of Guilford Green, Jared Redfield sold, on January 24, 1818, to George Landon, grandfather of Thomas H. Landon, the present owner.

### *Thomas Jordan's Home Lot*

THOMAS JORDAN, who came from England with the Rev. Henry Whitfield and his group in 1639, was assigned a home lot at the north side of Guilford Green, land now occupied by the home of Nelson H. Griswold, the Sage property recently owned by the late Robert T. Spencer, and the old Sage house, now owned by Francis E. Langdon.

Returning to England in 1655, Thomas Jordan became an eminent attorney at Lenham, in Kent, and died about 1705. He is supposed to have married Dorothy, oldest daughter of the Rev. Henry Whitfield. A daughter, Elizabeth Jordan, married the Honorable Andrew Leete, son of Governor William Leete, and to this son-in-law, Andrew Leete, Thomas Jordan, then of England, made over the title of his homestead in Guilford on March 25, 1674.

Andrew Leete is said to have been instrumental in the concealment of Connecticut's charter during the usurpation of authority by Major Andros and to have hidden that charter, for a season, in his house in Guilford. This early house probably stood somewhat back from the street, in the vicinity of the present house, home of the late Robert T. Spencer, as mention of an old cellar is made in a deed from Jared Leete to David Landon dated May 28, 1782. Andrew Leete died in 1692.

The homestead passed to Andrew Leete's son, Samuel Leete (1677-1751) who married Hannah Graves in 1722.

The pastor of the First Congregational Church, the Rev. Thomas Ruggles, Sr., died in 1728, and a division of opinion developed concerning the settlement of his son and namesake in his place, some favoring the settlement of another young man of Guilford, Edmund Ward. The outcome of the dis-

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agreement was the formation of the Fourth Congregational Church, of which the Rev. Edmund Ward was ordained as pastor on September 21, 1733. Samuel Leete was affiliated with the Fourth Society and on April 10, 1730, gave the land for a meeting house, so long as it should be used for that purpose and no longer. This meeting house stood approximately on the present site of Nelson H. Griswold's store. Church Street, or Durham Turnpike, was not opened until almost a century later. This meeting house continued in use until March 4, 1811. Deeds show that it was yet standing on February 8, 1813, but it was taken down soon after and the land then reverted to the original ownership.

Just before his death in 1751 Samuel Leete sold to William Redfield a building lot, part of his home lot, next west of the Fourth Church. Two months later William Redfield sold the west section of this building lot to Pitman Collins. Each man built a house on his land. William Redfield sold his house and land to Beriah Bishop on March 26, 1754. Pitman Collins sold his house, next west, to Nathaniel Joslin (or Jocelin) on May 17, 1760.

Both places presently had new owners. In 1756 Beriah Bishop deeded the homestead he had bought from William Redfield to his son, Nathaniel Bishop, "for his advancement in the world". In 1769 Daniel Humphreys of New Haven succeeded Nathaniel Jocelin as owner of the Pitman Collins house and promptly sold it, on April 8, 1769, to Captain David Landon, son of Judge Samuel Landon of Southold, Long Island, who had married, on October 18, 1763, Rebecca, daughter of Dr. Nathaniel Ruggles of Guilford. They were the ancestors of the Landon family of Guilford.

In the meantime, Samuel Leete having died in 1751, his son, Jared Leete, inherited by his father's will the eastern half of the Leete homestead. Jared bought the other half from his sister, Anna Leete, in 1773, this including her right and title in the dwelling house which, doubtless, was the original house built for Thomas Jordan more than a century earlier.

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Back in 1712 Samuel Leete, father of Jared, had sold to a kinsman, Peletiah Leete, the southwest corner of his home lot and thereon Peletiah Leete had built a house. He had married Abigail Fowler, daughter of Abraham Fowler whose home was on the corner of Broad and Fair Streets, next west. Their daughter, Abigail Leete, sold the land back to Jared Leete, reserving the right to take away the buildings any time before May 10, 1774. Later deeds reveal that Abigail Leete did move her house to the east side of the Fourth Church, on land now in Church Street.

By the close of 1773 Jared Leete owned the western part of his father's original home lot and about 1774 he built the house, afterward owned by Miss Sage and, at the present time, owned by Francis E. Langdon. This house originally stood farther east on the home lot and was moved to its present location when Joel Tuttle built a new house, farther back from the street, later the home of his sister-in-law, Miss Sage, and yet later the home of the late Robert T. Spencer.

Returning to the sister houses next west of the Fourth Church, the westernmost one was now the home of Captain David Landon, but the other, next to the church, was sold by Nathaniel Bishop, 2nd., on September 28, 1776, to the Rev. Daniel Brewer.

This transfer was the more noteworthy because the Rev. Daniel Brewer had lately been dismissed from the pulpit of the church, beneath the eaves of which he elected to live. He had embraced the doctrines of the Sandemanians, the church was split by controversy and for several years was without a minister. On August 8, 1783, the Rev. Daniel Brewer sold the house to his neighbor, Captain David Landon. From Guilford he went to Newtown, Conn., where there was a society of Sandemanians, and died in Taunton, Mass., in 1825, aged 81.

Captain Landon now owned all the street front between the Fourth Church on the east and Jared Leete on the west. In 1787 the property on the west passed from the name of Jared Leete, his conservator, Noah Fowler, being obliged to sell



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the homestead to realize 145 pounds, 1 shilling, 11½ pence for Jared Leete's creditors. Joel Tuttle, late of New Haven, bought it and lived there until his death in 1822. His second wife was Elizabeth Fowler.

Captain David Landon sold the house next the church in 1793 to Samuel Brown, but after Captain David's death in 1796, it came back into the family and his sons, Jonathan Landon of Southold, Long Island, and William Landon of Guilford, sold it, on May 22, 1798, to John Hoadley, probably from Branford. Hoadley, on July 12, 1804, sold the house to Orren Hand.

Orren Hand and his sister, Marina, were two of the seven children of Ichabod Hand, a distant relative of Jared Leete's wife, Hannah Hand. Orren Hand was a seafaring man. On September 6, 1804, he made his will, naming his sister, Marina Hand, his sole heir and his executrix. In December, 1806, at the age of 29 years, he was lost at sea, as was a brother, while another brother perished at sea a few years later.

Marina Hand became the wife of the Rev. Nathan Bennett Burgess, a native of Washington, Conn., who was rector of the Episcopal Church on Guilford Green from 1801 to 1805. They were living in Brookhaven, N. Y., October 12, 1812, when they sold the house and lot next west of the meeting house to John Taylor.

John Taylor had already bought, on July 18, 1812, the little house of Abigail Leete, on the east side of the Fourth Church, Abigail having died in 1792. Her heirs, Daniel, Miranda and Wealthy Leete, had sold it to Ezra Stone Bishop, from whom, two years later, John Taylor had bought it. On February 8, 1813, John Taylor bought the old, abandoned meeting house from the Fourth Society. When he sold the property, on December 13, 1814, to Joseph Nichols of New Haven, there were two houses thereon, the Abigail Leete house and the Hand-Burgess house, and a barn, but no mention was made of the meeting house, evidence that it had been torn down.

Samuel Eliot of Guilford bought the property from Joseph Nichols on December 25, 1817, and a month later, January 23,

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1818, sold it to the Rev. David Baldwin (1780-1862) who married Ruth Eliot, daughter of Wyllys Eliot of Guilford, and was rector, at various times, of the Episcopal Churches of Guilford, North Guilford, North Killingworth, North Branford and Branford, but continued to reside in Guilford. At one time, three young girls from the South were members of his family and he tutored them. One of these, Mary Ann Tutthill, probably a relative of the Tuttles next door, afterward became the wife of Frank Stockton, the writer of delightful stories. Mr. and Mrs. Stockton were guests of Miss Clara I. Sage in later years.

On April 16, 1818, the Rev. Nathan B. Burgess, then of Plymouth, Conn., quitclaimed to the Rev. David Baldwin, for one cent, all claim to the property, the latter having paid up the mortgage placed thereon by John Taylor.

Ten years after the death of the Rev. David Baldwin, his heirs, on May 4, 1872, sold the property, with one dwelling, store and other buildings to Nelson Hotchkiss. The little house of Abigail Leete had gone to make way for the opening of Church Street about 1825. The store was on the ground as early as 1846 when William H. Baldwin quitclaimed to David Baldwin the store on the latter's land "now occupied by me as a country store".

Nelson Hotchkiss, who now owned the house built by William Redfield in 1751, moved the house back from the sidewalk to its present location, enlarged and improved it. It passed to his heirs and is now owned by a grand nephew and namesake, Nelson Hotchkiss Griswold.

As to the house built by Pitman Collins in 1751 and later the home of Captain David Landon, his son, Nathaniel Ruggles Landon, at the southwest corner of the Green, sold the house and half-acre of land to Elizabeth Tuttle on April 6, 1830. In the Griffing genealogy, published in 1881, mention is made of a "two-chimneyed red house" lately removed, which was the home of Deacon Robert Griffing before he removed to North Guilford about 1767. He was a tenant only.

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The stately mansion of Joel Tuttle was doubtless built soon after Joel Tuttle, Jr., had inherited his father's property and after his mother had bought the Landon place, that is, about 1830. Joel Tuttle's wife was Lucy Sage of Cromwell. Her sister, Clara I. Sage, made her home with her widowed sister. The only son, Willie Sage Tuttle, died in youth, Miss Clara Sage outlived her sister, Mrs. Joel Tuttle, and inherited the Tuttle property. After her death it was purchased by Robert T. Spencer, who came back to his native town to spend his last years and died on June 25, 1935.



### *Miles Dudley's Homestead*

THE HOME of William Dudley, one of the Whitfield Company, was on the east side of Fair Street, his house standing about on the site of the present home of Attorney George E. Beers, the well, with its sweep and bucket, being on the sidewalk. Nathaniel and Betsy Ruggles, descendants of William Dudley, were its last occupants. They died in 1840, after which the house, two centuries old, was taken down.

Joseph Dudley, son of William Dudley, occupied his father's homestead but his son, Miles Dudley, (1676-1753) who married Rachel Strong in 1706, lived on Miss Ida Hubbard's site by the evidence of a deed of 1707. The Dudley lot extended south to the present north line of the Fair Street School grounds.

Miles Dudley's youngest son, John Dudley, (1721-1808) married Tryphena Stone and lived in his father's homestead until 1775, when he sold "the home lot where I now dwell", 2½ acres, with house, etc., to Nathaniel Bishop II for 360 pounds.

Nathaniel Bishop II sold the place in 1777 to Jasper Griffing who had lately bought the Old Stone House. Jasper Griffing died in 1800, his son, Joel Griffing, in 1826. Joel Griffing's daughter, Lydia, wife of Colonel William Hart, died in 1819, seven years before her father's death. In 1832 Colonel William Hart, father and guardian of Sally A. Hart and William H. Hart, grandchildren of Joel Griffing, sold the property to William Hale. In 1833 William Hale sold the present corner lot to John S. Bishop of North Madison.

York Street then extended no farther east than Fair Street and this homestead was bounded on the north by John Starr and Bela Stone, east by Durham Turnpike, south by the Town

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of Madison which then owned the present Turnbull homestead, and west by Liberty Street, as Fair Street was called for a few years. Prior to 1825 the home lots on the east side of Fair Street "reared back" against the home lots on the west side of State Street.

The estate of John S. Bishop in 1838 sold the house and lot to William Wooster of Guilford. The property changed hands several times until 1859 when John F. Kimberly bought it from Daniel S. Redfield and made his home there until 1878, when he sold the place to William D. Frisbie of New London, son of Mrs. Abigail Hubbard by her first marriage and half-brother of Miss Ida Hubbard, the present owner.

### *Comfort Starr's House*

COMFORT STAR in 1694 came from Middletown to Guilford. Here he lodged in the "ordinary" kept by John Hopson or Hobson in the Old Stone House which had been built as the home of the Rev. Henry Whitfield, leader of the founders of Guilford who had come from England in 1639.

Now John Hopson had a daughter, Elizabeth, a maid of twenty summers. Comfort Starr was twenty-five. They met and their courtship was short. They were married in the summer of 1694, bought the house of John Collins, formerly Henry Kingsnorth's, in Crooked Lane, and there passed their lives. This house is the only one now standing in Guilford, with the exception of the rebuilt Henry Whitfield House, of all the houses that were the homes of the Henry Whitfield group.

Comfort Starr of Guilford was a son of Comfort Starr of Middletown, a grandson of Dr. Thomas Starr of the vicinity of Boston, and a great grandson and namesake of Dr. Comfort Starr, that pioneer surgeon or chirurgeon who, with three children and three servants, left the comforts of Kent, England, in 1635, went on board the good ship, "*Hercules*" of Sandwich, "and therein transported from Sandwich to the plantation called New England in America". Later his good wife followed him with the other children. Dr. Comfort Starr practiced first in New Towne (Cambridge), then in Duxbury, and finally removed to Boston where he died in 1680.

Comfort Starr of Guilford was a tailor. In the south chamber of his house in Crooked Lane he worked at his trade with such assiduity that he is said to have worn through the floor where he stood at his cutting board. His tailor's goose and a chest bearing the initials of Comfort and Elizabeth Starr

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were exhibits, in later years, in the state historical museum in the Henry Whitfield House. His industrious life brought results. He became a large land owner and left a handsome estate when he died in 1743, lacking one year of a half-century of married life. Elizabeth lived nine years longer. Their ashes lie beneath the turf of Guilford Green west of the Soldiers' Monument.

There had been eight children, but one son, another Comfort, had died at the age of 18 years. Five daughters and two sons lived longer. These were Elizabeth who married Ebenezer Fowler; Hannah, wife of Ensign Nathaniel Dudley; Abigail, wife of John Graves, Esq.; Submit, single woman; Amy, wife of John Davis; Jonathan who married Abigail Cadwell; Jehosaphat who married Elizabeth, daughter of the elder Rev. Thomas Ruggles.

Jonathan Starr learned his father's trade and to him, in 1732, the father deeded more than an acre of land across the street from his home. There Jonathan built, that same year, the large, square, hip-roofed house now the home of Rollin F. Beecher. The house was a fine one and appears to have been too ambitious a project for the young man for the next year he deeded it back to his father. In his will Comfort Starr bequeathed to Jonathan "(besides what I have already given and paid for him)" the life improvement of certain lands and "my musquet and half my ammunition." After Jonathan's decease half the said lands were to go to Jonathan's son, Comfort, "in case he shall live to the age of 21 years". This grandson died at the age of 20, as had that other Comfort at the age of 18 years. Only one of Jonathan Starr's children lived to mature years. This was Lucy, a woman of great beauty, who outlived four husbands, all of East Guilford; Simeon Dudley who died at sea, Nathan Meigs, Thomas Bevan and Mr. Wilcox, whose widow she was when she died in 1816.

Jehosaphat Starr inherited his father's homestead. He was of different calibre from his brother, Jonathan, and was a prom-

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inent man in the town. He died in 1769, leaving the homestead of his father to his sons, John and William Starr. In 1808 the brothers divided the homestead and John and his wife, Mary Parmelee, remained in the old house while William Starr occupied the homestead of Captain Samuel Lee, next above, which he had bought in 1795.

John and Mary Starr were the parents of one son and seven daughters, these wittily known in Guilford as the "Seven Stars" or the "Pleiades". The son, John Starr, removed with his family to Verona, N. Y., in 1834. The seven sisters were Ruth, Clara, Hannah and Grace, none of whom married; Elizabeth, second wife of Jedediah Parker; Mary, wife of Captain Joel Griffing; Minerva, wife of Charles Edward Fowler, mother of the late Mrs. Beverly Monroe, and grandmother of the late John R. Monroe. Grace Starr was the last of the sisters to remain in the old Starr homestead where she died in 1874, at the age of 83 years, the place soon after being sold out of the family. It was Hannah Starr who planted in the front yard two black walnut trees from nuts picked up by her beneath the trees in front of the present property of Mrs. M. F. Bonzano on the west side of the Green. She planted them while the church bell was joyously ringing because of the signing of the peace treaty that closed the War of 1812. Hannah Starr died in 1839.

William Starr, who bought the Captain Samuel Lee place, died in 1816 and was one of the last of Guilford's people to be buried in the Green. The house on the opposite corner was built for his son, William Starr, Jr., but it passed from the Starr name in 1838. A later owner, Captain Reuben Fowler, enlarged to its present size the original story-and-a-half house. Later it was purchased by the late Elbert B. Potter. The Samuel Lee house continued in the Starr family, being owned by William Starr's son, Comfort Starr, and his grandson, John Shipman Starr. After the latter's death it was sold to Edgar Wilcox. From this house went forth, as a missionary to Japan, Elizabeth Starr, wife of John H. DeForest, who died in that country, an aged woman, in the winter of 1915-16.

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A daughter of the tailor, Comfort Starr, named Elizabeth, married in 1718 Ebenezer Fowler, son of Abraham Fowler and Elizabeth Bartlett. They built a house just off the southeast corner of the Green, the site of which was about in front of the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick T. Dudley. Eight children were born to them, one daughter, Elizabeth, remaining single. Huldah became the third wife of Samuel Chittenden, owner of the Acadian House. Lucy married Joseph Weld. Ebenezer, Jr., married Desire Bristol, daughter of Bezaleel Bristol who later settled in North Madison, first called North Bristol, being named for him.

Now Ebenezer Fowler, Sr., had been allotted land at Sugar Loaf Hills (so-named as early as 1706) in North Guilford in a division of land. There he built a house in 1743 and deeded it to his son, Ebenezer Fowler, Jr., but reserved to himself and wife, Elizabeth Starr, the use of one-half the house for life. It is recorded that Jonathan Starr's elder son, Comfort, who died in 1751 at the age of 20, and Jonathan Starr, himself, in 1765, both died in this house at Sugar Loaf, doubtless in that part which had been reserved for the use of Jonathan's brother-in-law and sister.

This house was the birthplace of the writer, a descendant, in the seventh generation, from Ebenezer and Elizabeth Fowler.



## *The Acadian House*

ONCE known as the Kimberly house, it is now called the Acadian House because tradition relates that this roof sheltered for a time, the homeless, penniless refugees from Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, set ashore at Guilford Point by a British ship late in the autumn of 1755.

It was in 1670 that Joseph Clay and his bride of that year, Mary Lord (anciently Laud) came from Saybrook to Guilford. Joseph Clay's home lot contained one acre and was located "on the hiway that passeth down to Richard Bristow's house". To the east were the common or undivided lands. Richard Bristow or Bristol's home lot was on the corner of State and Union Streets and he was a great uncle of Bezaleel Bristol who, a few generations later, was a pioneer settler in North Madison, early called North Bristol.

There was no house on the land when Joseph Clay's "terrier" was described in the town records so that he must have built it for his bride that year, 1670. It faces the west, frankly independent of the curves in the highway. The front door now is restored to its rightful place. Abraham Kimberly, in 1815 or thereafter, moved the front door to the north side, substituting a window in the center front. This later side entrance is seen in some pictures of the house, taken before the recent restoration.

Four daughters were born to Joseph and Mary Clay, two dying in infancy and two living to mature years. Mary married John Mason and passes from the story. Sarah married John Chittenden in 1701, when she was 27 years old. She had been an orphan for several years, Joseph Clay having died in 1695, his wife in 1692. To Sarah Clay passed the title to the

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homestead for beneath Joseph Clay's terrier is written "A record of two parcels of land to Sarah Clay, alias Sarah Chittenden, by consent of her husband, John Chittenden".

The property remained in the Chittenden name for 144 years. John Chittenden was a grandson of William Chittenden of Cranbrook. Both John and Sarah died in the prime of life, the latter in 1717, leaving 15-year-old John and 13-year-old Samuel double orphans. Their paternal grandfather took care of them. Young John Chittenden married Bathsheba Crutten-den and settled in North Guilford, deeding to his younger brother, Samuel Chittenden, the homestead of the Clays, their grandparents.

In the same year, 1726, Samuel Chittenden married Susannah Bishop. Five children were born to them, then Susannah died and Phyllis Burgis, widow of Nathaniel Johnson and daughter of Thomas Burgis, married Samuel Chittenden. One child, Benjamin, was born, then Phyllis also died. Huldah Fowler, daughter of Ebenezer Fowler at the southeast corner of the Green, was Samuel Chittenden's third wife and she outlived him for he died in 1783.

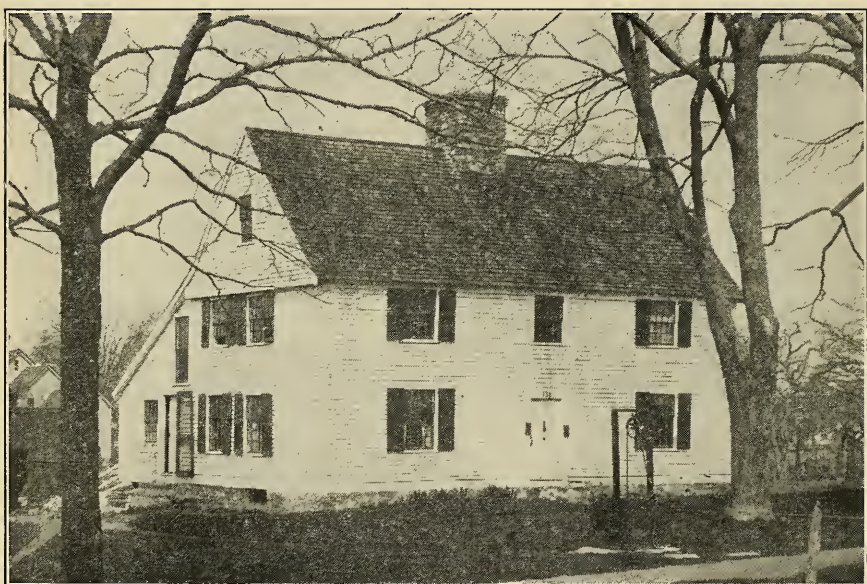
The Chittenden family since early days had owned land in what is now East River although it was part of Guilford rather than East Guilford (now Madison) until the latter was made a separate town in 1826. Here Samuel Chittenden owned a more modern house in which he was living doubtless at the time the Acadians arrived here, so that the house of this story could have been vacant and available for occupancy by these destitute French people.

In the division of Samuel Chittenden's property there was "set to Widow Huldah Chittenden one-third part of either of the houses that belonged to said deceased for her own use but not to hire out the same or bring into said house any other family to dwell therein".

This stipulation regarding an outside family may have had reference to the presence for a time beneath this roof of the Acadian people. If so, it is the only evidence to be found in







COMFORT STARR'S HOUSE, ORIGINALLY HENRY KINGSNORTH'S,  
ABOUT 1645



THE ACADIAN HOUSE, ORIGINALLY JOSEPH CLAY'S, 1670



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the land records that the Acadians found shelter beneath this roof.

To a son, Noah Chittenden, passed the homestead "where he dwells". Noah had married Elizabeth Crampton and here he spent his life. A daughter, Mindwell Chittenden, married Curtiss Blatchley, and to them the other children quitclaimed the homestead after the death of Noah Chittenden in 1802, specifying that this was "the residence of our honored father while in life and the place where he died".

Five generations had owned this house for 144 years when the Blatchleys sold it on November 3, 1814, to Leonard Chamberlain. He, three months later, in February, 1815, sold it to Abraham Kimberly. In that family it remained until within the memory of the present generation. It is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Greene of New Jersey, who occupy it as a summer home.

So much for the history of the house. The tradition that it sheltered for a time the unhappy refugees from Nova Scotia was handed down in the family of Colonel George Foote and a bit of lace, said to have been made by one of the Acadian women, was preserved in that family until placed in the Henry Whitfield State Historical Museum. History records the story of these refugees as follows:

In the summer of 1755, when Guilford was a loyal colony of England, British troops were engaged in reducing the French colony of Nova Scotia, assisted by the militia of the New England colonies.

The tragic story of the fate of the people of Grand Pre, as told in Longfellow's "Evangeline", is founded on fact. The British took the French inhabitants prisoners, put them aboard a ship which sailed down the coast and left small groups of refugees in the various coastwise settlements. It was late autumn when Guilford was reached and the "French family" was set ashore here.

The problem of taking care of these helpless and destitute strangers did not come up in town meeting until the following

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spring, and somewhere they must have found shelter and sustenance during the long, hard winter. It seems probable that Samuel Chittenden took pity on them and gave them shelter at this time, but there is no recorded evidence as to where they were housed that winter.

On April 12, 1756, it was voted in Guilford town meeting "That the selectmen shall, with convenient speed, put out to service so many of the French family which is amongst us as they can dispose of without cost to the best advantage to free the town from charge". To the Legislature of Connecticut it was reported that eleven refugees were quartered in Guilford. The Legislature ruled that the refugees should not leave those Connecticut towns in which they were quartered.

Twice during the next sixteen years do the town records lift the curtain that conceals these strangers from view. On December 27, 1768, Guilford town meeting voted to pay the old Frenchman's house rent out of the town treasury to Eliphallet Hall. And on April 13, 1772, "Upon the petition of the old Frenchman praying for the assistance of the town in defraying his charges of his passage to Canada, Voted that the selectmen of the town furnish the said Frenchman with twenty-five dollars (the first mention on these records of the dollar) to be disposed at their discretion to the person who appears to carry the said Frenchman and his family to Albany."

The word "passage" indicates that the journey to Albany was to be by boat and there was a constant procession of packets plying down Long Island Sound to New York and on up the Hudson River. It is probable that some thrifty sea captain earned the twenty-five dollars and set the French people ashore at Albany.

On up to Montreal went the main traveled trail and doubtless these exiles followed it, glad to hear again their own familiar tongue and to dwell again among those of their own nation. Somewhere in Canada there may be living today the descendants of these Acadian exiles who hold the family tradition of



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the years spent by their ancestors in that distant town by the sea, called by the English, Guilford.

At Albany, these French people passed into the silence. Now came on the strenuous and fateful days that ushered in the War of the Revolution. Only a few years later the French were the allies and the British the enemies of New England, their positions being reversed by "the fortunes of war."

### *The Leete Corner*

THE early name of Fair Street was Petticoat Lane. Three men had their home lots on the west side of the street. Robert Kitchell's lot extended from Broad Street to the present north line of Samuel Spencer's property. Then came the lot of Francis Bushnell, Jr., afterward the lot of William Johnson who came to Guilford in 1653. The corner lot at Fair and York Streets, extending to River Street, belonged to John Caffinch or Caffinge. The western part of the Caffinge lot later became Robinson property.

In 1652 the Town of Guilford had become the owner of the corner lot at Fair and York Streets. (Until 1840 York Street went no farther east than Fair Street). This corner lot extended west to the Robinson line and south to Dr. Evans's south line. The octagon house stands on land once part of William Johnson's home lot.

Guilford had been in need of a blacksmith and, in 1652, induced Thomas Smith to come from Fairfield in that capacity, giving him this corner lot on condition that he would ply his trade in Guilford. But he removed to Clinton (then called Killingworth) after deeding his home lot to Thomas Cooke on October 9, 1660. The Town of Guilford acquired the lot again on September 27, 1695, and presented it again, this time to the Rev. Thomas Ruggles, Sr., as part of his settlement. It was voted to build thereon a "suitable house which shall be for the ministers that settle with us here in Guilford". On January 22, 1696, the house was ordered to be 46 x 22½ feet, 15 feet between joists, and on February 26 it was voted to add a porch thereto and a tax was laid to cover the expense incurred.

This house was never built. The land records reveal the reason. The Rev. Thomas Ruggles exchanged lots with Daniel



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Bishop, as told in the story of the Woodward Tavern, and located on the west side of the Green, within sight of the meeting house.

Daniel Bishop died in 1751. His son, Daniel Bishop, Jr., sold the homestead in Fair Street to Daniel Stone on May 30, 1757, describing it as "1 messauge or tenement where I now live", with dwelling house and barn, bounded south by Captain Johnson and Captain Leete (Reuben Leete, site of octagon house) west by Esquire Johnson, north and east by highway.

This home lot remained intact until 1774. In that year Daniel Stone sold to Rufus Graves the corner lot, where the house of Mrs. Eva B. Leete now stands. Here Rufus Graves built a house which he sold to Rosewell Woodward in 1777. The latter sold it, in 1782, to David Hull, who, on August 21, 1783, sold this house on the corner to Thomas Woodger. On May 4, 1784, Thomas Woodger bought an adjoining strip of land on the south from Benjamin Stone, son of Daniel Stone, who was living in the old Daniel Bishop-Daniel Stone house on the site of the present house of Dr. J. H. Evans.

By this second purchase by Thomas Woodger the tiny house lot of Rufus Graves and three-fourths of an acre of Benjamin Stone's land were thrown together. But Woodger soon sold the southern portion to Joseph Green who acquired also the corner and the old Rufus Graves house. On September 3, 1785, Joseph Green sold the southern portion of land to Abraham Woodward who built thereon the house now owned by Earle B. Leete. On April 4, 1791, Joseph Green sold the Rufus Graves house on the corner to Colonel Noah Fowler of Moose Hill, father-in-law of Abraham Woodward, who was a brother of Rosewell Woodward of Woodward's Tavern on the present site of Douden's Drug Store.

In the summer of the same year, Colonel Noah Fowler sold the Rufus Graves house on the corner and an eight-rod garden patch to Widow Rebekah Ackerly. The south line was to cross the well of water on the premises lately bought of Joseph Green.

Abraham Woodward's house was sold January 26, 1797,

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to Solomon Stone, Jr., across the street who, four years later, sold the place to James Wheadon of Guilford. He, thirteen days later, April 17, 1801, bought from John Starr, administrator, the late residence of Widow Rebekah Ackerly. During his five years of ownership James Wheadon took down the old house on the corner built by Rufus Graves. Writing in the New Haven Palladium in 1879, the late Henry P. Robinson stated "Not twenty years ago this corner . . . was the stone wall end of a lot with a broken tin and pewter pile, gone the way of all the earth". The old cellar place of Rufus Graves had become a junk pile. But here, in 1869-70, Edwin A. Leete built the large house on the corner which is now the home of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Eva B. Leete.

Where the octagon house now stands, Captain Reuben Leete had built a house, about 1744, on land bought by him from Noah Hodgkin who had lately bought it from Sergeant Nathaniel Johnson of whose home lot it had been a part. Jonathan Vaill owned it in 1801 and Lydia and Hannah Vaill were the last occupants. This house disappeared and on its site Edwin A. Leete, in 1856, built the octagon house now owned by Mrs. Claude A. Griswold, and occupied it until 1870, when he built the corner house.

James Wheadon, then of Branford, on September 4, 1806, sold the Abraham Woodward house (Earle B. Leete's) to John Hall, who, in 1815, bought from Joel Griffing, for \$425, the old house on the south, the Daniel Bishop-Daniel Stone house, last occupied by Aaron Hinman, on the site of Dr. J. H. Evans's house.

But John Hall soon fell on evil days for on August 14, 1818, he deeded the whole corner lot, down to the present site of the octagon house, to Maltby & Field, merchants, and Simeon Hyde, all of New York.

These New York men held the title to the place until January 14, 1822, when they indentured it to Benjamin and Alfred DeForest, also merchants of New York. From them, on March 27, 1822, Amanda Scranton, wife of William Stewart

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Frisbie, bought the house now owned by Earle B. Leete. Here was born, August 27, 1830, Charles Henry Frisbie, who, thirty-two years later gained national fame as the "Hero of the Thirty-Seventh Psalm". As captain of the "Jacob Bell", he was returning from China with a cargo valued at one and one-half million dollars, when his ship was captured, on February 12, 1863, by the privateer, "Florida", two or three days out of New York. The cargo was seized, the crew taken prisoners and the "Jacob Bell" was set on fire. Captain Frisbie opened his Bible and, while his ship burned, read to Captain Moffit of the privateer those inspired words, "I have seen the wicked in great power . . . yet he passed away and, lo, he was not."

Amanda Frisbie died in 1870. She had sold to George C. Leete, in 1856, the lot on which was built the present home of his daughter, Mrs. Annie Leete White, and, in 1868, to Edwin A. Leete the lot on which he built the corner house. After Mrs. Frisbie's death Edwin A. Leete bought the house where his grandson now lives but sold it in 1871 to Charles F. Leete, trustee for the widow of Medad Holcomb, as her home. After Mrs. Holcomb's death, Edward M. Leete, son of Edwin A. Leete, bought the house on September 6, 1889, and lived there many years. His son, Earle B. Leete, is the present occupant and owner.

No property in the residence section of Guilford has passed through so many changes of ownership nor had so diversified a history as the section here described.

### *Ephraim Darwin's Place*

THE homestead lying between Church and North Fair Streets and bounded on the south by York Street was sold in 1936 by Robert Stone of Kansas City, Mo., to Mrs. Katherine P. Norton of Madison. She immediately sold the house and home lot to the Misses Ethel L. Harwood and Edith S. Blake, both of Melrose, Mass.

Until the day of these transactions the property had been owned by only two families since the settlement of Guilford. Ephraim Darwin, who came to Guilford about 1670, left his name in the neighborhood for the rocks on the hill beyond were always known as "Ephraim's Rocks." He, in 1719, deeded "the messuage where I now dwell" to his son, Daniel Darwin, who, in turn, deeded the property, in 1743, to his two sons, Stephen and Ebenezer Darwin. They sold it in two parcels in 1764-5 to Caleb and Daniel Stone. Caleb's son, Solomon, married Daniel's daughter, Thankful, and to Solomon Stone, in 1772, this place was deeded. The present house is said to have been built in 1766. Robert Stone, who lately sold the place, is a descendant of Solomon Stone.

### *Col. Samuel Hill*

THE name of "Sam Hill" is heard wherever the English language is spoken. To "run like Sam Hill", is a common expression. Who was this familiar paragon of so many skills?

Colonel Samuel Hill was born in Guilford, February 21, 1678, a son of John Hill and his wife, Thankful Stow, and a grandson of the settler, John Hill, carpenter, who came from Northamptonshire, England, and settled in Guilford in 1654, and whose "stack of chimneys", "now" dwelling, home lot and orchards were at the northeast corner of Guilford Green, covering ground now the home lot of Mrs. Frederick C. Spencer and extending well up State Street.

In youth Samuel Hill learned the trade of "feltmaker", or, in modern parlance, hat maker. At the age of 31 he married Huldah Ruggles, a daughter of Samuel Ruggles and his wife, Ann Bight, of Roxbury, Mass., a granddaughter of the settler, Thomas Ruggles from Nazing, England, and a sister of the Rev. Thomas Ruggles who was called in 1695 to the pastorate of the Congregational Church in Guilford to succeed the Rev. Joseph Eliot, deceased. The children of Colonel Samuel Hill and his good wife were four: Samuel, Huldah, Henry and Nathaniel.

Col. Samuel Hill was a brother of John Hill who had married Hannah Hyland, daughter of George Hyland of the Hyland House, and who, as one of the four sons-in-law of the Widow Hyland, had participated in that famous lottery by which the widow parcelled out the Hyland homestead to the husbands of her four daughters. In 1702 Samuel Hill bought the Hyland land of his brother, John Hill, who lived at the northeast corner of the Green. The remaining parcels of land



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he purchased one by one from his brother's brothers-in-law, exchanging other pieces of land for them as was the primitive custom, until he owned all of George Hyland's acres. The lot farthest west, which contained the dwelling, he exchanged with Isaac Parmelee and his wife, Elizabeth Hyland, for the lot which Isaac Parmelee had drawn in the family lottery. Col. Samuel Hill was then the owner of all the land on the north side of Boston Post Road from the present western boundary of William Rolf to the western boundary of the Griswold homestead lot, and extending north to Union Street. His dwelling, built about 1709 and torn down in 1849, was on the site now occupied by the house owned and formerly occupied by William Rolf.

The house of Colonel Samuel Hill was something unique in Guilford architecture of that period and was remembered a generation ago as having had a three-story front. It sheltered four generations. The present house, owned by William Rolf, or its nucleus, was built for the great grandchildren of Colonel Samuel Hill, Samuel and Anna Hill, by their conservator, Deacon Hull. They died in 1877, aged 93 and 90 years respectively.

In public life Colonel Samuel Hill was a man of affairs. He was chosen town clerk in 1717 and afterwards served as clerk of the proprietors of the town until his death. When the Probate Court for Guilford District was formed in 1720, he was chosen clerk and later judge of the court, holding the latter position for the remainder of his life. He was one of the principal magistrates of Guilford and justice of the County Court of New Haven. He represented Guilford in the General Assembly with such regularity that the story goes that the moderator of town meeting would rise and say:

"We are here to elect Colonel Sam Hill and someone to go with him to the next General Court."

Col. Samuel Hill's mantle fell, not upon his first born son, who was physically disabled, not upon his second son, who died in early manhood, but upon his youngest son, Nathaniel Hill.

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A grandson, Judge Henry Hill, son of the deceased son, Henry, in later years upheld the standard raised by his grandfather but with him ended the family dynasty in local politics. Distinction, however, was won in the fourth generation by George Hill, poet, a friend and contemporary of Guilford's other poet, Fitz-Greene Halleck.

George Hill was a son of Judge Henry Hill and his wife, Leah Stone, sister of Medad Stone of the Tavern at the northwest corner of the Green. Their home at the south side of Guilford Green was torn down in 1935 to make place for a chain store. He at one time held the responsible position of teacher of mathematics in the United States Navy. In 1839 he was appointed consul for the southern part of Asia Minor. Failure of health caused his return to his native town and his last years were spent in Guilford.

In the enumeration of famous descendants of Col. Samuel Hill, should be included the name of Howard Eliot, former president of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Co., a son of Charles Wyllys Eliot, a native of Guilford, and a grandson of Andrew Eliot and his wife, Catherine Hill. The last named was a daughter of Judge Henry Hill, the grandson of Col. Samuel Hill. Thus Howard Eliot was the great, great, great grandson of Col. Samuel Hill.

So much for the descendants of the man. Of himself, his character and temperament, his last will and testament is the mirror in which his reflection may be glimpsed after nearly two centuries.

The will is dated July 31, 1751, precisely two weeks after the death of Colonel Hill's son, Henry, at the age of 37. It would seem that the father reasoned, from the death of his son in all the strength of his young manhood, that it was time to set his own house in order. He died in 1752.

The son, Henry Hill had left his widow, Sarah Hart, daughter of the Rev. John Hart of East Guilford, and an infant son, Henry, then nine months of age. The widow later married Dr. Thomas Adams. Her third marriage was with the Rev.



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Amos Fowler, then pastor of the First Congregational Church in Guilford, whose home stood on the present site of the Town Hall.

After the usual preliminaries and the provision that the beloved wife, Huldah, was to share with the son, Nathaniel, the dwelling house, etc., Col. Samuel Hill's will took up the sad case of his first-born child, Samuel, in these words:

"Whereas my eldest son, Samuel Hill, Jr., is a loving and dutiful son but through weakness of body is not able to labor and provide for his comfortable subsistence during his life, therefore, in lieu of a double portion of my estate, all my estate shall be security for his maintenance, if need be, and his mother shall have the care of him so long as she and he shall live: and the better to enable her to provide for him she shall keep so much of my estate in her hands as she shall think necessary for that end. And after his mother's decease, he, the said Samuel, shall be taken care of and provided for by his brother, Nathaniel Hill, not to live a servile life with said Nathaniel, but to be tenderly and kindly used both in sickness and in health. And I hope said Samuel will be willing to do what he is able to do with comfort, but I would have no compulsion put upon him by his Brother, but would have him treat him as his elder brother under weakness; and if my said son, Samuel, should at any time choose to remove his dwelling and dwell with his sister, he shall have liberty so to do; and said Nathaniel shall pay the cost of his keeping there, if desired; and after my grandson, Henry Hill, shall come of age and receive his portion he shall pay his proportional part, according to what he receives, toward the maintenance of said Samuel."

It is of interest that this feeble son attained the age of 73 years, a ripe old age in those days.

Other helpless ones were upon the mind of Col. Samuel Hill. An unmarried brother, Nathaniel Hill, was then living in Saybrook, apparently in poor circumstances. The prosperous Samuel committed the care of this brother to his son, Nathaniel, adding,

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"I grant to my said brother such conveniences in my house and other buildings as he may have occasion for, in case he will come and live with me, or with my wife and children after my decease, which I hope for and greatly desire for the comfort of my brother, and also of my son." Later "great care and tenderness to his said uncle" were enjoined upon the son and provision made for the same.

To the daughter, Huldah, wife of Rosewell Woodward, there was the bequest of coin, pieces of eight sufficient to make her portion one thousand pounds, old tenor. It was cannily provided by the testator that the bequest should return to the family of Hill, in case the daughter died childless, which proved to be the case. Rosewell Woodward lived on the west side of Guilford Green, on the site of the homestead of his wife's grandfather, the Rev. Thomas Ruggles, Sr. This house stood near the site of Douden's Drug Store.

Toward Nathaniel Hill, his youngest child, who later was to uphold the pillars of the family temple, the father's heart turned with sympathetic understanding.

"Whereas . . . . the burthen of me, my wife and my Brother Hill, in our old age, and my son, Samuel Hill, in his weakness, is all devolved on my son, Nathaniel Hill, the better to enable him to bear and discharge his duty herein"—then follows clear-sighted provision for those responsibilities.

Last of all is taken up the case of the infant grandson, Henry, son of Henry Hill, deceased. The grandfather expressed himself as—

"Being willing he should be so trained up in his youth that he may be fitted to serve God and his generation in whatsoever calling his mother and other of his nearest relatives and friends shall think is fittest and best for him to be put to learn; and if it should be thought best to give him a liberal education and bring him up at colledge, it may perhaps cost more than the moveable estate which will fall to his share" . . . . Nathaniel Hill, uncle of the child, is then empowered to act to meet this possibility.

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A codicil, added a few months later, provides for spending money for the youth in his minority, "850 pounds to be valued according to Spanish dollars at 3 pounds apiece." It is of interest to add that the grandson, Henry Hill, did graduate in due time from "colledge", a member of the class of Yale, 1772.

A second codicil of April 25, 1752, added one more thought to the provision with which the beloved wife, Huldah, was surrounded.

"My loving wife, Huldah, shall have all the provisions that are already provided and laid in for my family's use, and also what provisions she shall think needful to use, provide, and lay in the summer and fall next ensuin for the use of the family that she shall secause to keep."

On May 28, 1752, Col. Samuel Hill died. Ebenezer Parmelee, then living in the Hyland House, was one of the witnesses of the will.

Somewhere on Guilford Green they laid Col. Samuel Hill to rest. "A strong man, sun crowned, who lived above the fog in public duty and in private thinking."

### *Abial Eliot House*

THE Eliot house at the corner of Whitfield and Water Streets, built in 1726 as the home of Abial Eliot and his bride, Mary Leete, was torn down in May, 1926, to make way for a one-story building erected by United Theaters' Inc., to contain stores and a moving picture theater.

The work was done by Franklin D. Spencer, contractor, a descendant in the seventh generation from Abial and Mary Eliot.

Although the house had rounded out two centuries of existence, it was not the original house on this home lot, owned by Eliots for 260 years. The original house was of stone, one of four stone houses built by the first comers to Guilford, of which only one, the Whitfield House, remains.

This early house on the Eliot site was originally the home of the Rev. Nathaniel Higginson, a son-in-law of the Rev. Henry Whitfield, and his assistant teacher and preacher. It is said by tradition to have been located approximately in the rear of the present dwelling of Dr. G. Franklyn Anderson, a house built in 1755 for Abial Eliot's son, Nathaniel. The original house was not standing in 1753 when this house lot was deeded by Abial Eliot to Nathaniel, and was probably torn down soon after the erection of the house on the corner which has met a similar fate. The well which served the Nathaniel Eliot house may have been the original Higginson well.

The Rev. Nathaniel Higginson departed from Guilford in 1659 and the town of Guilford purchased his homestead. When, after much candidating, the Rev. Joseph Eliot, son of John Eliot, of Roxbury, Mass., Apostle to the Indians, was

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called to the pulpit, the property was bestowed upon him, as recorded in the town records in the following words:

"March 15, 1664:

"By vote of the planters here it is agreed that the house and lands bought of Mr. Higginson in order to be disposed of for another minister's accommodation for our supply be tendered to Mr. Joseph Eliot freely and absolutely, that upon his acceptance thereof he may furthermore be stated in it, as his inheritance amongst us, which was accordingly tendered to Mr. Joseph Eliot by Abraham Cruttenden, Sr., and Thomas Clark and Henry Doude, being a committee appointed to that work by the town and according to Mr. Eliot's desire were kept in power till he secause to accept of the town's offer and take possession of the accommodations so tendered to him, which was not long after."

To Guilford, then, in 1664, came the Rev. Joseph Eliot with his first wife, Sarah, daughter of Governor William Brenton of Rhode Island. After her death he married Mary, daughter of Honorable Samuel Wyllys of Hartford. He lived here thirty years, until his death in 1694.

Each wife left four children, and of the eight Abial Eliot was the youngest. Born in 1692, he was but two years of age when his father died. He and his brother, Jared, were the only boys in the ministerial family. Jared became the reverend and distinguished minister of Killingworth, now Clinton. A sister, Mary, married as her second husband, Abraham Pierson of Killingworth (Clinton), and as her third husband, Samuel Hooker of Kensington, a grandson of the Rev. Samuel Hooker. Another sister, Rebecca Eliot, married in 1749, a third husband, Captain William Dudley, the first of that name to settle in North Guilford. Her tombstone, with its inscription, may yet be seen in the cemetery in North Guilford.

Dying in 1694, the Rev. Joseph Eliot left a will. Among other provisions he gave to his wife his two Negroes, Shem and Hagar, "the better to enable her in housekeeping with her young children."



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To his son, Jared, were left lands in Roxbury and Cambridge, Mass., while to Abial went "all houses, lands, divisions and all whatsoever appertaining to me in the town of Guilford where I dwell."

If both sons were "brought up to learning" the library was to be divided equally between them. "But, if not, he that is brought up have it all."

Abial became a farmer of the ministerial lands in Guilford while Jared qualified for the entire library. However, to Abial passed the ownership of the famous court cupboard, given by the Rev. John Eliot, "Apostle to the Indians," to his son, Joseph, when he was "setting out for the far-off Connecticut wilds." This court cupboard is now a valued possession in the family of Edward Eliot of Guilford, a grandson of the Rev. Joseph Eliot in the seventh generation.

The pear tree which the Rev. Joseph Eliot planted, and which is said to have stood in the rear of the Dr. Talcott place, later the home of Burton L. Sperry, was standing until 1865 when a high wind blew it down.

The Rev. Joseph Eliot died on May 24, 1694. He was laid at rest on Guilford Green, as were all of Guilford's dead in those early times, his grave being on the east side nearly in front of the residence of E. P. Bates.

When Abial Eliot and his bride, Mary, daughter of John Leete, and great granddaughter of Governor William Leete, built this fine new house in 1726, they elected to place it close by the street, as was fashionable at that period. It was a salt-box house. In the east front room, which was the parlor, there were paneled and wainscoted walls, and a fireplace, with a tiny fireplace in the chamber above, while the living room on the west side was similarly treated except for the wainscoting.

In both front rooms Franklin fireplaces were later installed, probably at the time of the marriage of Charles Eliot to Chloe Pardee of East Haven in 1815, for the fireplaces bore the eagle, which emblem was not in use at the time of the wedding of his parents.

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Dr. Benjamin Franklin, who invented the Franklin fireplace and stove, was a friend of Abial's brother, Dr. Jared Eliot, frequently visiting him at his home in Killingworth (Clinton) so that the installation of these (then) modern fireplaces was not strange.

Abial and Mary Eliot had six children, four sons and two daughters. Levi died in early manhood. For Nathaniel and his bride was built the house already mentioned, now Dr. G. Franklyn Anderson's, next south of the paternal mansion. The house in Water Street, known for years as the Leverett Griswold house, was the home of Wyllys Eliot, son of Abial. The remaining son, Timothy, settled in North Guilford, the homestead there being long occupied by the great, great grandchildren of Abial Eliot.

Nathaniel Eliot's children, reared in the southerly house on the corner home lot, were William and Mary. William succeeded to the title of the entire property. Mary married Israel Halleck and was the mother of the distinguished poet, Fitz-Greene Halleck, and his splendid sister, Maria Halleck.

William Eliot married Ruth Rossiter and three sons were born to them: William Horace settled in New Haven; George Augustus migrated to Erie, Penn.; Charles remained at the homestead in Guilford where he died in 1870.

To Charles and his wife, Chloe Pardee, were born six children. Of those whose descendants yet live in Guilford were Adeline, wife of Leverett C. Stone and mother of William L. Stone; Sarah Ann, wife of Henry Reeves Spencer and mother of the late Daniel R. Spencer and Robert T. Spencer; Lewis R. Eliot, father of Edward Eliot, late owner of the homestead.



### *Abel Chittenden House*

NONE of the early houses of Guilford has been more completely forgotten, as to its early history, than the one in State Street now owned and occupied by Mrs. Ralph L. Parker, and which, for forty years or more, was the property of John Benton, formerly of Sachem's Head, who bought it in 1862.

This house was once the home of Chittendens and remained in that family for a century or more. The land on which it stands was part of the home lot of Henry Dowd, twenty-third signer of the Plantation Covenant and so a member of the Whitfield party. He died in 1668.

The Book of Terrier, Vol. 1, Page 60, a book begun April 10, 1648, and containing a description of each man's real estate in the town of Guilford, contains the following entry:

"Nathan Bradley hath sold and alienated his house, house lot and orchard, 2 acres, to John Chittenden, as by deed of May 28, 1667".

This lot was bounded south by John Evarts, originally John Mephram's home lot, west by John Stevens and William Dudley of Petticoat Lane, now Fair Street, and north by William Seward, through whose home lot York Street later was cut.

This John Chittenden was Sergeant John Chittenden (1643-1716) son of William Chittenden, the settler, whose home was Cranbrook, corner of Broad and River Streets. Sergeant John deeded the place in 1712, four years before his own death, to a son, Abel Chittenden, whose brother, John, was the husband of Sarah Clay, owner of the Acadian house.

Abel was unmarried at the time of his father's death, in fact was forty years old in 1721, when he married Deborah Scranton, and this is circumstantial evidence that this was the

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home of his parents from 1667 on, as they were married in 1665. The place was deeded to Abel Chittenden in 1712.

Abel Chittenden and his wife, Deborah Scranton, had four children. Their only son, another Abel, died when four years old. The three daughters never married. Deborah, at the age of 63, was a suicide. Ann died in 1799, aged 73, and Elizabeth in 1808, at the age of 83 years.

Elizabeth's will, drawn in 1801, was probated in 1809, Abraham Chittenden, Jr., being the executor. She left the homestead to the granddaughters of her cousin, Samuel Chittenden, half of it to Mindwell, wife of Curtiss Blatchley, and half to Ruth, wife of Elisha Bartlett. Immediately the Blatchleys sold to Ambrose Benton 28 rods off the north side, next to the home lot of said Ambrose Benton (Miss Bertha Benton's home now).

In 1814 Curtiss and Mindwell Blatchley sold the place to Leonard Chamberlain and he, seven months later, sold it to Thomas Scranton whose home was the so-called Hinckley place now owned by Mrs. Clifford Lee. He still owned it in 1828, according to a deed of the Ambrose Benton place at that time.

Although the land records bear witness to the sale of land farther down the street in 1835 to Miner Bradley, land bounded on the north by Thomas Scranton, no further record of the transfer of Abel Chittenden's homestead could be found until 1849, when Henry W. Chittenden, executor of the estate of Anna Kimberly, quit-claimed it to her brother, Eli Kimberly, keeper of Faulkner's Island Light Station. He sold it the next spring, 1850, to William Hart and he, in turn, sold it that August to Richard D. Coan. It was quit-claimed by Richard Coan to John H. Kelsey in 1853 and he, in January, 1854, sold the place to Gilbert Blatchley from whom John Benton bought it on April 21, 1862.

It remained in Mr. Benton's possession until his death early in this century and was his home in his last years. He had bought Samuel Johnson's house at the northeast corner of the Green where Elisha Chapman Bishop was to build his new house,

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now the home of Mrs. Frederick C. Spencer, and placed it on the south part of this home lot. Mr. and Mrs. Benton lived in the Johnson house and kept boarders for many years while the old house was given over to tenants. The latter was renovated and repaired when he returned to the old house to spend his last years.

Other owners were Darwell Stone and Eliot W. Stone before Mrs. Parker bought it.

The deed of 1667 mentions a house on the lot when Sergeant John Chittenden bought it from Nathan Bradley. The external appearance of the house, as remembered in the 1890's is convincing evidence that it was more than two centuries old then.

## *The Burgis Houses*

THE house, standing opposite the Hyland House in Boston Street, is one of the early houses of the town. It was built in 1735 as the home of Thomas Burgis, 2nd., who, that year, married Hannah Dodd of East Creek and brought his bride to this fine new mansion. The story of it begins with Thomas Wright, who came to Guilford in 1670 and lived in town until he died in 1692.

Thomas Wright came from Wethersfield, married Sarah, daughter of Edward Benton whose house stood on the northwest corner of the Green, and died leaving no sons, but three daughters, Mary, Mercy and Mehitable Wright. He was the town shepherd, a far cry from the rank of his father, Thomas Wright of England, who was an ambassador to the Court of Spain, there marrying, according to genealogists, a daughter of the House of Toledo. It is a fact that Frank Chapman Leete, a descendant of Thomas Wright, ten generations later, was mistaken for Alfonso, king of Spain, traveling incognito, when Mr. Leete was in Europe as a young man.

The home lot of Thomas Wright was on the south side of Boston Street, approximately the present site of the Boston Street Schoolhouse. After his death in 1692 two daughters inherited the homestead. Mary Wright in 1698 married Gideon Allin who had come to Guilford from Swansea, Mass. He deserted his family and went to Killingworth (the present Clinton). Mary Wright Allin died about 1729 and her share of the estate of her father, Thomas Wright, went to her three sons, Joseph, Ebenezer and Gideon Allin.

Her sister, Mercy Wright, married, in 1707, Thomas Burgis, shoemaker and tanner, who had lately arrived in Guilford

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after various adventures. A native of Yorkshire, England, he was compelled to serve for several years aboard a British man-of-war. While the vessel was cruising in the vicinity of New York Thomas Burgis and one or two others made their escape. Being overtaken and captured near Newtown, Conn., he received a sabre cut on his face, the scar of which he always carried. He escaped again, this time near Boston, and made his way along the shore to Guilford. Marrying Mercy Wright, he occupied the homestead of her father, Thomas Wright, and founded the Burgis family in Guilford.

Thomas Burgis bought from the Allin brothers, nephews of his wife, their share of the homestead, which then extended from the Caldwell property at the corner of Lovers' Lane on the east to the Hopson homestead (the Whedon place, later Mrs. George Wingood's) on the west.

Thomas and Mercy Burgis had five children. The sons, Thomas Burgis, 2nd., and John Burgis, married sisters, Hannah and Sarah Dodd of East Creek. John Burgis and Sarah, his wife, went to live in the West Pond district, where the family had owned land for some years, and the old house place, on the old road from Moose Hill to North Branford, was not forgotten a generation ago. They died childless but Deacon John Burgis attained fame by his "Bill of Mortality", a record of deaths in Guilford, begun in 1746 and continued until he died in 1800, when others took up the pen he had laid down. One of the first deaths he recorded was that of his own mother, Mercy Wright Burgis. On the first page he made the entry "Was a great earthquake".

Thomas Burgis, 2nd, and Hannah, his wife, built and lived in the house next west of the old homestead, the house which is the subject of this sketch.

As to the daughters of Thomas and Mercy Burgis, Phyllis married Nathaniel Johnson of Fair Street, whose house is now the home of Captain and Mrs. Leonidas Seward. Her second



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husband was Samuel Chittenden, owner of the Acadian House. Abigail married Enos Bishop. Mercy, the third sister, married Abraham Chittenden and remained in the house of her father and grandfather.

Their son, Deacon Abraham Chittenden, married Diana, daughter of General Andrew Ward of Nut Plains. She died in 1784. Her daughter, Betsy Chittenden, who was only seven when she died, lived in the grandfather's home in Nut Plains and there Benjamin Baldwin courted her while Lyman Beecher was courting her cousin, Roxana Foote.

Deacon Abraham Chittenden married, after a year of widowhood, Lydia Rose of North Branford. He lived to be 96 years old, dying in 1848. Of his three sons, two went West, Abraham I. to Warsaw, Ill., and John B. to Mendon, Ill., the latter about 1830. At the time of his marriage to Eliza Robinson in 1814, Deacon John B. Chittenden had built the house which stands now, the second one east of the Boston Street School. In a closet opening out of the east front chamber is a secret compartment beneath the floor, found by lifting up a floor board, the reason for which can be conjectured only. The third son, Henry Ward Chittenden, lived on the west side of the Green, where now Mrs. Bonzano lives. Deacon Abraham Chittenden died in 1848 at the age of 96 years.

The old house of Thomas Wright and his descendants was torn down in 1860. The last occupant was Stephen Robinson who lived there while building his new house, now the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Potter.

So much for the history of the Thomas Wright house. In their new home next west from the paternal residence, now owned by Miss Elizabeth Munger, Thomas Burgis, 2nd, and Hannah, his wife, brought up their family. Of all their children this story follows only the life of one son, Thomas Burgis, 3rd.

This young man was graduated from Yale College in 1758 and became the school master of North Guilford. According

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to the custom of that time, the school master "boarded around". In due season Thomas Burgis became an inmate of the home of Oliver Dudley, near the site of the present home of Herman W. Kiesel. He courted the daughter of the house, Olive Dudley, and they were married in 1769.

The story of that wedding has been preserved in the handwriting of a granddaughter, Mrs. H. W. Noyes. It was an out-door wedding, a novelty in those days. The bride was beautiful, her auburn hair falling to her knees. Her wedding gown was of dove-hued silk, elbow sleeves trimmed with frills of lace, the open skirt, rounded in a graceful train, revealing a richly-embroidered petticoat and spangled kid slippers. The Rev. Thomas Wells Bray united the couple in holy wedlock beneath a beech tree in the dooryard. Later in the day the bride and bridegroom set out on horseback for their home in Guilford, followed by a procession of friends on horseback, the procession extending over a quarter-mile.

So Olive Dudley Burgis came to her new home in the house of this story. She had been educated in the domestic virtues and accomplishments by a mother of sweet and gentle piety, whose temper was so mild that none of the ills of life could disturb its equanimity. Olive was skilled with the spinning wheel and with the needle. Linen of finest texture and rich embroidery of birds and flowers made up her curtains for windows and testers. Thomas and Olive lived long and useful lives in the community.

When Thomas Burgis, 3rd. died in 1799 he was the owner of two houses, this one described as "the house at home", another, "the house at East Creek". The latter had been the home of his grandfather, Ebenezer Dodd, and stood where now stands the home of Henry S. Davis, built by the late Deacon John W. Norton.

The house at East Creek was left by the father jointly to two sons, Samuel and Thomas Burgis, 4th. The latter married Sarah Deshon, younger sister of Ruth Deshon, wife of Nicholas



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Loyselle at the Black House, and of Lydia Deshon, wife of James Cezanne, another Frenchman from Guadaloupe, who then owned the house west side of Guilford Green, later Amos Seward's. In 1798 Thomas Burgis, 4th, purchased the Black House and thereafter, for many years, it was known as the Burgis place.

The "house at home" was left by Thomas Burgis, 3rd., jointly to his widow and his three daughters, Olive, wife of Ozias Whedon, and Elizabeth and Hannah Burgis who never married. A third son, Eliab Burgis, a sailor, died in 1808 aged 29 years, presumably lost at sea. In 1824 Elizabeth and Hannah Burgis, joint owners, were living in their father's house. Elizabeth dying, Hannah became sole owner in 1844. Before that year the sisters had removed to New Haven where Olive Whedon was living. In 1846 Hannah Burgis sold the homestead, then 111 years old, to William Hart.

Two months later it was sold again, this time to Jason Seward, then of Madison. Jason Seward was a son of Timothy Seward and Rebecca Lee. He married Amelia Judson in 1804. Their daughter, Eliza Seward, married in 1828 Walter P. Munger who died while on a visit to Ohio in 1859. As she was a widow her father deeded the place to her. From her it passed to a son, George Wyllys Munger, who married Susan C. Dudley. They were the parents of Miss Elizabeth Munger, now owner of the house built in 1735 for Thomas Burgis 2nd.

The present home of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Monroe was another Burgis home. It was bought by Nathan Meigs, father of Isaac Meigs, from Elizabeth Ward in 1787. The site had an earlier house built by a grandson of the settler, Lieutenant William Seward, and owned for years by people living in Durham. In 1820 Mr. and Mrs. Leverett Parmelee bought it, then sold it, in 1829, to Colonel John Burgis, a son of Samuel Burgis at Grandfather Dodd's place at East Creek. Here Colonel John Burgis brought up a family of eleven children, the last of whom, another Thomas Burgis, died in Pittsburgh, Penn., in 1909.

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Colonel Burgis was a seedsman and had one or two shops nearby where seeds were stored and prepared by workmen. One of these buildings was moved to the premises of William Bartlett at East Creek.

The house stands on a ledge of rock, to avoid which the early road made a sweeping curve. The place remained in the Burgis family until 1882, when Miss Fanny Burgis, a daughter of Colonel John Burgis, died.

### *The Philo Bishop House*

ONE of the fine examples of early eighteenth century architecture in Guilford is the Philo Bishop house in upper State Street. It was built in 1707 for John Collins, Jr., when this section of the town was known as Norton's Quarter. The home lot, containing thirty-three acres, ran back to Alder Swamp.

In 1723 John Collins, "in consideration of fatherly love and endeared affection", deeded this place to his son, the third John Collins, "reserving to myself and wife, Ann Collins, use and improvement of half the lands for life". Ann Collins, formerly Ann Leete, died the next year but her husband lived until 1751.

John Collins III, in 1732, sold the homestead to David Bishop, Sr., who had married, in 1724, Deborah, widow of Timothy Stanley of Durham and daughter of Captain John Seward whose property adjoined this place on the south. Deborah's sister, Judith Seward, was the wife of Ithamar Hall, next door on the north.

David Bishop, Sr., willed the whole of the homestead to his son, David Bishop, Jr., and died in 1773. The son married Audrea Fowler. They had two sons, Jared and Jonathan, between whom David Bishop, Jr., divided his homestead. He died in 1792. Jared Bishop lived on in the old house while Jonathan built a new house on the south part of the home lot.

Jared Bishop was the father of Philo Bishop. By his will, in 1839, he caused an imaginary boundary line to be drawn through the center of the old house, his widow, the former Mary Munson, to have the south half of the place, the son, Philo Bishop, the north half.

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The place remained in the Bishop family 185 years, or until 1917, when the late George Hull sold it to Mr. and Mrs. William Whiteman. Afterward Francis Langdon owned it. In 1929 William Hoppock sold it to Mrs. Alice Deaton of New York, the present owner, and removed to Taunton, Mass.

The house next south, built in 1787 for Jonathan Bishop, Sr., is the home now of William Pinchbeck. Here Jonathan Bishop, Sr., and Jonathan Bishop, Jr., raised their families. Later owners, Captain George Erskine and Mrs. Elizabeth Meadowcroft, altered and built on to the original house. In the rear are the extensive houses of glass in which the celebrated Pinchbeck roses are grown.

### *House Madison Once Owned*

A HOUSE in Fair Street, in the center of Guilford, has the unique record of having been owned for six years by the town of Madison. It is the former Henry Hotchkiss house, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. James F. Turnbull.

On April 7, 1814, the town of Guilford bought the house from Deacon Peter Spencer who had come here from Saybrook in 1805 and went from Guilford to Mount Pleasant, Penn. Here the town poor were sheltered until East Guilford was set off as the town of Madison. The division of the town meant the division of property and this house, then the almshouse, valued at \$900, was set to Madison on October 19, 1826. By virtue of a vote of the town of Madison on October 3, 1831, to sell the property, it was sold to William H. Stevens on August 13, 1832, for \$550.

An earlier Stevens was the first owner of this home lot. John Stevens although not one of the Plantation Covenanters, was probably here at the first allotment of lands. At any rate he was located next north of William Dudley, one of the Whitfield group. A town meeting of February 13, 1670, granted liberty to "Mr. John Collins to buy John Stevens, his house and land and so is a planter here".

John Collins, who came to Guilford in 1669, married Mary, sister of Henry Kingsnorth who was the first owner of the Comfort Starr homestead. John Collins sold this Petticoat Lane property to Benjamin Gould in 1707, it then being sandwiched between Joseph Dudley on the south and Miles Dudley on the north. Joseph Dudley and Benjamin Gould married sisters, respectively Ann and Elizabeth Robinson. The Widow Elizabeth Gould and her son, David, in 1726, sold the place to Stephen Spencer, blacksmith, who had arrived in Guilford two

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years earlier and married Obedience Bradley, daughter of Abraham Bradley. Stephen Spencer owned the place eleven years, then sold it, in 1737, to Caleb Stone, Sr., a son of Lieutenant Nathaniel Stone at the northwest corner of Guilford Green. Caleb Stone, Sr., soon deeded the place, 'for parental love and affection', to Caleb Stone, Jr., whose home it was thereafter.

Deacon Peter Spencer bought the place from the Stones in 1805 and his sale to the town of Guilford already has been described. When this town bought the place it backed up on the east against the home lots in Crooked Lane or State Street but when the town of Madison sold it the eastern boundary was the turnpike, or Church Street as it is now called, which had been opened in that period.

The front part of the house now owned by the Misses Martin, once the home of J. D. Loper, was a wing of this house, moved onto the north part of his lot by William H. Stevens, owner from 1832 to 1834, when he went to Illinois. Later owners were Samuel Davis, 1834-1835; William A. Hull, 1835-1839; William Hart, 1839-1840; James Austin Norton, 1840-1856.

It was James A. Norton who sold to the North West School District, on January 22, 1848, one-quarter acre of land on which the Fair Street School was built. The building was set well back from the street for in front of it was a pond hole which was said to be bottomless, so that people could not understand how a schoolhouse could be built on the lot.

On the south side of his home lot James A. Norton built a new house (John Pitts's), selling the old house to John A. Richardson of New Milford on April 4, 1856. Later he moved to Bristol.

John A. Richardson was for many years cashier of Yale National Bank, New Haven. His father, Gilbert Richardson, and step-mother, Rhoda, made their home here. Rhoda Richardson sold the place to Mrs. Henry Hotchkiss (Anna P.) on June 29, 1900. From her heirs, Mr. and Mrs. James F. Turnbull bought it in 1933.



## *The Fowlers Of Moose Hill*

ON a bank beside the post road on Moose Hill stands a granite boulder, on which, in the summer of 1917, a bronze tablet was set, a monument to the memory of Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, near whose birthplace it stands. The boulder was the gift of Wallace Gallaudet Fowler, a nephew of Mrs. Gallaudet, past eighty years of age, and the bronze plate was the gift of the girls of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford. The whole was a memorial to a benefactor, herself born deaf and dumb, but nevertheless able to render inestimable aid and encouragement to her husband, Dr. Thomas H. Gallaudet, whose school in Hartford for deaf mutes was the first attempt in this country to educate these hitherto unfortunate people.

In April, 1923, the Highway Department of Connecticut caused thirteen handsome maple trees in front of the house nearby to be cut down and the memorial itself was moved far back on the bank to permit the road to be widened and straightened.

The story of Sophia Fowler Gallaudet is the story of the Fowlers of Moose Hill, that section of Guilford which adjoins the towns of North Branford and Branford. The Fowlers and the Nortons were the first families from Guilford Center to locate here.

Abraham Fowler, grandson of the Guilford settler, Deacon John Fowler, was the first of that name to have title to Moose Hill land. Living in Guilford Center, he made his will in 1753 and gave "to my beloved son, Noah Fowler, all my land at Moose Hill, running from the Country Road to Roland Leete's". A further bequest was the southwest corner of the paternal



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home lot at the corner of Fair and Broad Streets (now George F. Walter's property) for the site of a "Sabba' Day" house, a place of shelter for family and horses on Sundays when out-dwellers came in town to attend all-day meetings in the heatless Meeting House.

Noah Fowler married in 1752 Deborah Pendleton of Stonington, daughter of Josiah Pendleton, and settled on Moose Hill. He prospered greatly and before his death in 1815 could ride to the westward on the old stage road with his own fields and pastures on either hand. His property even crossed the town line for he settled his son, Eli, on the Branford side of his land, the house site being a bit east of the present home of Rudolph Kneuer. For his son, Noah Fowler, Jr., he built the house which has been for many years the property of the family of Richard Kelsey. For his son, Miner Fowler, he built the house across the street from his own home, later the Moose Hill Inn. Bildad, the youngest son, remained in his father's house, for the patriarch's house stood on the site of a later one, also built by Fowlers, which now is the home of Eber Fisher.

Captain Noah Fowler he was when he led forty-three men to Lexington with the Seventh Regiment of the Connecticut Line. Later in the War of the Revolution he was made lieutenant colonel of the Twenty-Eighth Militia Regiment. Thus he had his "best silver-hilted sword and belt belonging to the same" and his "other silver-hilted sword" to leave to his sons.

In front of the Kelsey house, which was the home of Noah Fowler, Jr., there stood, until a few years ago, a clump of boxwood grown so tall and thick that it hid the window and a hole had to be cut through the center of the shrub to admit light to the room. Tradition was that the Marquis de la Fayette, passing through Guilford in 1824, was entertained by Noah Fowler, Jr., and his wife, he having known the father, Colonel Noah Fowler, during his war service; that the Frenchman courteously presented to his hostess the sprig of boxwood which

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he was wearing as a boutonniere and she rooted it and planted it beneath the window as a memento of that red letter day.

Colonel Noah Fowler by his will gave to each son a homestead and also set apart a burial place in the rear of his house, where doubtless his own dust reposes. A monument there bore the names of his grandsons, Captain Harry Fowler, Ward Fowler and others.

Miner Fowler, third son of Colonel Noah Fowler, married Rachel Hall in 1787. She was a daughter of Captain Stephen Hall and a descendant of George Hyland of Guilford. Six children here were born to them. The first one, Parnel, proved to be deaf and dumb. Two sons came next, each with normal speech and hearing. Ten years after the birth of Parnel another daughter, Sophia, was born and she, too, was deaf and dumb. Two years after Sophia's birth a cousin of hers was born across the street, Ward Fowler, son of Bildad Fowler and Sarah Bartlett, and he also, was deaf and dumb.

Here then were three children in these two families, cut off from all communication with their kind except such as could be established in the family. It was a heavy affliction.

But while these three deaf mutes were young, life opened up for them. Dr. Thomas H. Gallaudet of Hartford had taken up as his life work the instruction of the deaf and dumb, had studied in Paris and now had opened, in Hartford, a school for deaf mutes. Cheerfully the parents sent their children to this school, sparing no expense to educate them.

Parnel presently came home again and passed her life in her father's house with her brother, Miner Fowler, Jr. But Sophia Fowler married her teacher, Dr. Thomas H. Gallaudet, on August 29, 1821, and passed her life in Hartford. Her assistance to Dr. Gallaudet was beyond measure.

Miner Fowler, Jr., in 1827 brought his bride to his father's homestead. She was the Widow Charry Ives of Waterbury, young, beautiful, accomplished and with much social prestige.

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The property owned by her in Waterbury is now in the heart of the city. While she was mistress, the house on Moose Hill entertained many guests. Their son, Wallace Gallaudet Fowler, was the last of the name to make the place his home. He was the father of the late Mrs. Chester Kingman, who inherited her grandmother's beauty and charm and who lately died in England, and of Dr. Ernest Fowler, now in California.

### *The Black House*

BESIDE the old Boston Post Road in Guilford there stands a dwelling with a history which sets it apart from other houses, old or new. It is called the Black House because once it bore a coat of sable paint. The story of that coat of paint is the story which links for all time the history of little Guilford with the history of England, of France and of Guadeloupe in the West Indies.

The house was built in 1761 for Levi Hubbard and his wife, Anna Gould. Levi Hubbard belonged to an early Guilford family, and was a brother of the Rev. Bela Hubbard, that pioneer priest of the Church of England who had taken the long, perilous voyage to England to receive ordination in 1763. Returning to his native town the young rector was in charge of the little mission churches in Guilford and two neighboring towns until 1767, when he was transferred to New Haven.

The fact that this brother, Bela, lived in New Haven may have influenced Levi and Anna Hubbard to remove there. They sold their homestead in Guilford, March 24, 1787, to Nicholas Loyselle, late of the Island of Guadeloupe, and removed to New Haven.

Nicholas Loyselle, a Frenchman, had married Ruth Deshon of New London, Conn., who was of Huguenot descent. Their household included slaves, "one Negro man named John, and one named Joe", who were sold in 1794 to Dr. Thomas R. Pyncheon, the local physician. A few years later slavery became extinct in Connecticut.

What had brought to Guilford Nicholas Loyselle, late of the Island of Guadeloupe?

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It was the time of the racial struggle going on in the French islands of the West Indies, a struggle which culminated, between 1794 and 1797, in the uprising of the black race and the flight of the Frenchmen to safety in other countries.

Warned in season, Nicholas Loyselle had departed from the unhappy island before the uprising and had come to New London, Conn., a natural refuge for fugitives from the West Indies. Between New London and the West Indies vessels were constantly plying, carrying down cargoes of New England products and bringing back tropical merchandise. These vessels, when the uprising of the blacks had really begun, came back crowded with refugees and the hostelrys of New London were full to overflowing for a time until the refugees could scatter to new and more secure homes in this northern land.

Another potent influence operated to bring a Frenchman of the station of Nicholas Loyselle to New London. The French government had stationed there, in 1786, a naval agent, one Philip deJean, whose interest in the welfare of a fellow countryman would have been instinctive. It was doubtless through deJean that Loyselle met in New London Ruth Deshon, whom he soon married. It is not known what influence caused the Loyselles to choose Guilford as their place of residence but here they came in 1787.

The family of Ruth Deshon, wife of Nicholas Loyselle, was a distinguished one. The name, Deshon, is said to have been a derivation from the old French name, Des Champs. The story runs back into the preceding century.

In 1686, the year after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, thirty Huguenots and their families had emigrated from France to Oxford, Mass. Indians soon broke up the settlement and the Huguenots were dispersed to other parts of New England.

One of these men had a son, Daniel Deshon, who was brought up in the home of Rene Guignon, a Huguenot of some note. He settled in Norwich, Conn., and died there in 1715.



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Young Deshon, having received provision by the will of his benefactor, soon removed to New London.

There, on October 4, 1724, Daniel Deshon married Ruth Christophers, daughter of the Honorable Christopher Christophers, a Harvard man of 1702. Ruth Christophers was a descendant, in the fifth generation, of Elder William Brewster.

A son of Daniel Deshon and Ruth Christophers was Henry Deshon, who married Bathsheeba Rogers. Their children, especially the daughters, Ruth, Lydia and Sarah Deshon, are the Deshons of this story.

There were sons, also, born to Henry and Bathsheeba Deshon, illustrious sons who acquitted themselves as men in the War of the Revolution. Daniel Deshon, the oldest son, was commissioned by the State to command the armed brig, "Old Defense" which was captured by the British in 1778. Richard Deshon was captain of a volunteer company. John Deshon, one of the leading members of the Council of Safety, was commissioned by the State to lay out the forts, Trumbull and Griswold, for the defense of New London, and to impress all vessels in New London Harbor for coast defense. John Deshon was a warden of St. James's Episcopal Church, thus managing that difficult combination of patriot and churchman. He held that office in 1778 when the rector, the Rev. Mr. Graves, was mobbed and locked out of the church because he could not conscientiously refrain from reading prayers for the King and royal family of England.

When the British invaded New London in 1781, Sarah Deshon, the youngest of the family, was but a child. Family tradition recounts that Sarah met the "Red Coats" on the bridge over Shaw's Cove, near her home, and that she made them a low courtesy before scampering homeward. The soldiers followed her to the fine new house, which stood close by the Shaw Mansion, now famous because Washington once slept there, set fire to the house of the Deshons and burned all the family possessions. Soon after the parents died.



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It is probable that the sisters, orphaned and homeless, found homes with their older, married brothers, and that thus they met the Frenchmen, Nicholas Loyselle and James Cezanne.

As has been stated, Nicholas Loyselle brought his wife, Ruth, to Guilford in 1787. On September 10, 1789, Lydia Deshon was married to James Cezanne in New London by William Henry Channing, minister, as attested by the records. Three years later the Cezannes followed the Loyselles to Guilford, purchasing the homestead of Joseph Griffing on the west side of Guilford Green, later known as the Amos Seward house.

There were three Cezanne children, Lydia, James and Henry. The name of Lydia Cezanne echoes to this day for she was a charming girl and a social favorite, counting among her admirers the poet, Fitz-Greene Halleck. She died when about twenty years of age.

A third Frenchman, Michael Guimar, moves dimly through the story. The records reveal him as taking a mortgage on the property of Nicholas Loyselle so that he must have been a man of some means. That he also was from the Island of Guadeloupe is certain, but where he lived or if he had a family is unknown.

In the spring of 1793 Nicholas Loyselle was having his house painted. He was superintending the work of the painter when news reached him that Louis XVI, King of France, had been executed on January 21, three months earlier. They were loyal Frenchmen, these men from Guadeloupe, and the soul of Nicholas Loyselle was filled with grief.

"No more work to-day", he told the workmen. "It is like a funeral."

When the work of painting the house was resumed, the paint was black. And black the house remained, a symbol of mourning for the King of France, long after Nicholas Loyselle himself had followed Louis XVI out of this life. Traces of the black paint remained in sheltered spots long after later coats of paint had succumbed to time and weather.

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One more claim to remembrance in Guilford annals belongs to Nicholas Loyselle before he passes into the silence. He was a friend of Eli Foote, the lawyer-merchant who died in the South of yellow fever in 1792, leaving ten young children. To the oldest of these, Roxana, Monsieur Loyselle taught the French language. She became so proficient, both in speaking and writing French, that afterward, when she was the wife of the Rev. Lyman Beecher and the salary of the pulpit in East Hampton, Long Island, must be eked out, she was able to teach French to the young ladies who were her husband's pupils in other branches of education.

The records are silent concerning the fate of Nicholas Loyselle but a faint tradition has survived the years. It runs that he took ship for his former home, the Island of Guadaloupe, to transact some business or, in local phrase, to "bring back a barrel of money." The transaction was completed and the ship was to sail at dawn, for which reason Monsieur Loyselle slept on board. In the morning he was found dead in his berth, slain by an unknown hand.

That Madame Loyselle was left with limited means seems probable. On March 14, 1798, her brother-in-law, James Cezanne, deeded the Loyselle homestead to Thomas Burgis, the fourth of that name, who had married Sarah Deshon, sister of Mrs. Loyselle. The Black House was thereafter the Burgis homestead for many years.

It is probable that Madame Loyselle continued to live in the house as a member of the Burgis household. She died May 18, 1824, at the age of 65 years, leaving a legacy of \$50 to the Episcopal Church of Guilford.

The surnames of Loyselle, Cezanne and Burgis passed long ago from Guilford except as carved on tombstones now and again. The story, as told here, was searched out of the records of New London and Guilford. A marker has been placed on The Black House by the Dorothy Whitfield Historical Society, Inc., its history having been pieced together after a century had passed.

### *The Amos Seward House*

ON the west side of Guilford Green, its door step hard against the sidewalk, is one of Guilford's remaining Colonial houses, yet known as the Amos Seward house, although owned in that family only eighty-five years.

It was built in 1772, in the reign of George III, by Dan Collins, a son of Oliver Collins of the West Pond road, on Moose Hill, and a brother of Darius Collins of Back Lane, now Union Street. He married Amy, daughter of Bezaleel Bristol. Ten years after building the house, he moved with his family to Richmond, Mass.

The land on which this house stands was originally a part of the two-acre home lot of Edward Benton at the northwest corner of the Green, which home lot passed later into the ownership of the Stone family. In 1724 the five sons of Lieutenant Nathaniel Stone divided the property of their deceased father and the corner lot was set to Joseph Stone.

Joseph Stone died in 1733. His daughter, Mary Stone, "singlewoman", inherited the corner lot and sold half of it to her brother, Joseph, in 1736. That same year she married Samuel Evarts, who died four years later. In 1741 she married Samuel Dodd of East Creek, who died in 1757. Until her death in 1790 she was known as Widow Mary Dodd.

Ephraim Pierson had come to Guilford, whence is not determined. Little is known of him except that he married Dorothy Bishop in 1710 and died in 1761. Two years before his death he bought of the Widow Dodd the last quarter-acre of her inherited land "at or near ye town plot or Great Market Place".

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In 1763 Submit Pierson memorialized the General Assembly for permission to sell this land on the west side of the Green and it was sold to Jasper Griffing, who, later, was to purchase the Old Stone House. Up to this time there was no building on the lot but, when Jasper Griffing sold the land to Dan Collins on March 8, 1772, a shop was standing thereon, perhaps for the sale of goods brought in by coasting vessels of the "Old Commodore".

After building his house, Dan Collins bought, in 1775, a bit more land on the north from Bilius Ward, bringing his north line up to the shop where Bilius Ward plied the trade of silversmith. This shop may be the same shop in which the Dorothy Beauty Shop is housed today.

Dan Collins sold the place on October 2, 1781, to Joseph Griffing from Long Island, second cousin of Jasper Griffing, who lately had arrived in Guilford with his bride, Ruth Hart, of Huntington, L. I. For a time Griffing ran a coasting vessel to and from New York. From 1801 to 1808 he was keeper of Faulkner's Island Light Station, its first keeper. On January 3, 1783, he sold the house to a brother, Nathaniel Griffing of Southold, L. I. The house now owned by Frank Cianciolo and used as a fruit store was the later home of "Uncle Joe and Aunt Ruth" Griffing.

The title to the Amos Seward house remained with the Southold owner for nine years. On January 17, 1792, Joseph Griffing resumed ownership, selling immediately, February 9, 1792, to James Cezanne.

Cezanne, like his brother-in-law, Nicholas Loyselle of the Black House, was a Frenchman from the Island of Guadaloupe, as told in the story of the Black House.

Twelve years the Cezannes lived in this house, then sold it, July 23, 1804, to the Rev. Israel Brainard, and moved to the Samuel Bradley place, west of Jones's Bridge. The house was the home of the minister only two years for the Rev. Israel Brainard was dismissed from the pastorate of the First Congregational Church and sold the place back to James Cezanne on

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September 12, 1806. Going as a missionary to the frontier, Oneida County, N. Y., he died in Syracuse on September 5, 1852.

Amos Seward bought the house on August 8, 1814, and here brought his wife, Sarah Hubbard. They passed their lives here and it was the home of their children after them. In the winter of 1871-2, the house narrowly escaped destruction by fire. The Hale store and two houses, next south, burned to the ground. The Seward house was saved by desperate work, the firemen holding upright, by pikes, the north wall of the burning house, only four feet distant, until it was ready to fall when they pushed it over and away from the Seward house and so saved the latter.

On January 30, 1899, Mrs. Fannie Seward Baylies, trustee of the estate of Amos Seward, sold the place to Edward M. Leete. It is owned yet by the Leete family.



## *The Great Ox Pasture*

FROM the time of Guilford's settlement in 1639 until as late as 1830, Sachem's Head was known as the Great Ox Pasture, the name of Sachem's Head being applied only to the land bordering on the harbor of that name. On the bluff to the westward, when Whitfield's company arrived, stood an oak tree bearing in its fork the gruesome burden which gave name to the neighborhood. The story of the Indian Sachem and his head is too well known to need repetition. The late Charles L. Benton told the writer that he remembered his father pointing out to him, a small boy, the stump of the oak tree which had borne in its fork the head of the Indian chief. That tree stood on a bluff west of the Pope cottage, a bluff that has disappeared since as a result of quarry operations.

The history of The Great Ox Pasture falls naturally into three periods, the first beginning in 1728. The Great Ox Pasture was divided into 260 lots, each patentee receiving  $20\frac{1}{4}$  acres and 35 rods. Those who preferred undivided land elsewhere could take that instead. Many records of exchanges of land filled the years immediately following. The boundaries of The Great Ox Pasture were thought by the late Deacon John W. Norton, an expert in terrier matters, to have been Long Cove on the east, Great Harbor on the west, Long Island Sound, of course, on the south and on the north a fence running from the head of Long Cove to Great Harbor.

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When the fifth division of land took place William Leete II lived near Guilford Green. He was a son of the Honorable Andrew Leete and a grandson of Governor William Leete. His homestead was on the south side of Broad Street, west of Mrs.



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Sophia Bishop's present home and across the street from the home lot of his father, Andrew Leete. The latter had occupied the land and house vacated by his father-in-law, Thomas Jordan, who had returned to England in 1660.

Dying in 1736, William Leete II left all of his acres in The Great Ox Pasture to a son, Jordan Leete. Another son, Solomon Leete, succeeded to the ownership of the homestead just off the Market Place or Green. A third son, Roland Leete, lived in that section of the town approached by the "country road" which leaves the state road at Eber Fisher's, Moose Hill.

No sooner had Jordan Leete become "well seized" of his paternal acreage than he began to enlarge his boundaries by purchase and exchange of land until he owned a farm of 100 acres in The Great Ox Pasture. His marriage to Rebecca Watrous took place in 1746 and he seems to have settled at The Great Ox Pasture then, since all his interests and activities were centered there. The first documentary evidence of Jordan Leete's residence at The Great Ox Pasture is found in a quitclaim deed of 1764 and, on the same day and date he deeded several acres to his brother, Solomon Leete, stating that they were part of his homestead.

Just before this, on March 28, 1762, the Rev. Edmund Ward of Guilford had bought of Seth Stone three-quarters of an acre at the Harbor of Sachem's Head in The Great Ox Pasture. A document of January, 1763, describes this land, "with the house now in building", and a deed of 1765 states that the Wards were living there. The home of the Rev. Edmund Ward was the nucleus of the present residence of Edward Eliot, the early house having been much smaller than the present one. These dates prove the Eliot house to be the oldest one now standing at Sachem's Head and the second one erected there.

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The story of the Rev. Edmund Ward is a tragical one. He was a native of Guilford, a son of Capt. Andrew Ward, Jr., and his wife, Deborah Joy, the latter of Fairfield and Killing-

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worth. He was graduated from Yale College in 1727, studied divinity for a few months and was in readiness to preach just as the Fourth Church was separating from the First Congregational Church over the dispute about the settlement of Thomas Ruggles the younger, in place of his deceased father, in the First Church pulpit. In 1733 the Rev. Edmund Ward was ordained over the Fourth Church. His ministerial career was short, however, for in 1735 he was dismissed from the church and silenced from the ministry on charges of unbecoming conduct. During the early days of the little Episcopal mission on the Green Mr. Ward shared with laymen the duty of reading service when no priest was available. His wife was Mehitable, daughter of Thomas Robinson, Jr. History states that Mr. Ward remained in Guilford but lived in seclusion. In 1763 the Wards sold their homestead on the east side of Guilford Green and retired to the greater seclusion of the new house beside Sachem's Head Harbor. A daughter, Clarinda Ward, married Nathaniel Caldwell and later the Ward house by the sea was referred to as the Caldwell place.

\* \* \*

Jordan Leete, the pioneer, came to the end of his days on April 8, 1773. His property was divided among his heirs, his widow and children, who disappeared from The Great Ox Pasture. His name remains at Sachem's Head only as it is attached to Jordan's Channel. Tradition relates that a vessel lay to outside and called for a pilot into Sachem's Head Harbor. There was no one to act as pilot but Jordan Leete and he knew more of ploughing the land than of ploughing the deep. But he went aboard and brought the ship in by the most direct route, over top of rocks and reefs on which the craft bumped considerably, as the captain remarked. This was "Jordan's Channel" thereafter.

Solomon Leete, brother of Jordan Leete, sold his father's homestead west of Guilford Green, about 1776, removed to The Great Ox Pasture and located upon the bluff above Sa-

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chem's Head Harbor where soon British vengeance was wrecked upon his property. On June 17, 1777, a party of the British landed on the beach near by under cover of fog and burned his house with most of its contents, also two barns. This was doubtless an act of reprisal as only a month before, from this same harbor, had gone out the little expedition, under Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs, which had accomplished one of the most successful raids of the Revolution. In little more than twenty-four hours it had traveled ninety miles to Sag Harbor, Long Island, captured ninety-six prisoners, destroyed a fleet and taken large quantities of supplies, all without the loss of a man.

Being a thrifty man, Solomon Leete immediately prepared a list of his losses at the hands of the British and applied to the General Assembly for reimbursement, being "satisfied that the sum of 1,044 pounds, 15 shillings and 2 pence would not at this day replace said articles." The General Assembly saw fit to grant him fifty per cent of his estimate. The list of quaint articles is yet on file in the State records.

In 1803, shortly before the death of Solomon Leete, there were five homesteads in The Great Ox Pasture, of which four were homes of Leetes. The fifth was the Ward or Caldwell house before mentioned. The children of Solomon Leete and his wife, Zipporah, were five sons and two daughters. Solomon Leete, Jr., moved with his family to New York State. Thomas Leete married Anna Norton, built the house now the home of Daniel Walden and became "Uncle Tommie Leete" of whom more anon. James Leete located at Jones's Bridge, engaged in ship building there and was drowned in the river near his home. Pharez Leete dwelt with his father in the house which Solomon Leete had built on the old site to replace that burned by the British. After the father's death, Pharez sold the homestead to Charles Faulkner and removed to North Haven where his descendants yet live. Elijah Leete's house, long gone, was built near the cottage of the late Misses Newhall, his descendants. He was the father of Daniel Brown Leete, the story of whose

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home, now called "Shaumpishuh", is told elsewhere in this volume.

The dust of Solomon Leete and many of his descendants remains at The Great Ox Pasture. A little cemetery, 33 feet square, yet can be discerned on the hill back of the present Sachem's Head Hotel. A fence once enclosed it but the forest now has possession. A grassy mound, a rude footstone here and there mark the place but the headstones were removed to Alderbrook Cemetery when Samuel Leete, the last of the family there, departed from The Great Ox Pasture a half-century or more ago.

Thomas Leete and Anna, his wife, married June 30, 1773, were a childless couple. As the former advanced in years he developed eccentric ways and peculiar lines of thought and was known through the town as "Uncle Tommie Leete". He called people by their first names, without prefix, and the Rev. Aaron Dutton, the minister, was no exception. Ceasing to attend public worship, Uncle Tommie in his own home, went through the forms of praying, preaching and singing each Sunday morning. Next day he would allude to his interview with Luke, John or Paul.

The late Mrs. Kate Foote Coe, writing in *The Independent*, related these anecdotes about Uncle Tommie Leete:

"In an evil hour he sold some of his many acres in The Great Ox Pasture to a neighbor. The deeds were drawn and the money paid but Uncle Tommie never got over the feeling that those acres, once his, were yet his by inalienable right and he turned in his red Devon cattle whenever he saw fit. The new owner remonstrated. 'I own that land. It's against the law to put your cattle on my land'.

" 'I dunno about your laws uptown there—I've nothin' to do with 'em', said Uncle Tommie, bland and firm. 'This is ox pasture law, and the matter is, Sammy, that those cattle have got to go on that land'. Ox pasture law prevailed. Old Tommie put his cattle where he saw fit, and then, mounting his old horse, he rode up town in his three-cornered hat and cutaway coat.



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There he stopped at any house where the spirit moved him to tarry and, entering in, held an extempore prayer meeting with whatsoever people he found therein, exhorting the family to lead honest lives in the fear of God. Nobody was unkind enough to refuse a prayer meeting thus brought to their doors and nobody ever made practical application of Tommie's own method of life to his theory and so bring him to confusion of face.

"In the time of the elder Adams a heavy land tax was laid to support the standing army and the unequal arrangement fell upon farmers horny-handed and hard-fisted already and destined to become more so if that sort of oppression went on. Tommie was one of those who felt it deeply.

" 'Gusty Collins and Abra'm Fowler, you're the understrappers of Johnny Adams', said he to the assessors. 'And the matter is, I shall tell him so. I shall say, Johnny, Johnny, you can't do it'. And he would have jogged on his old horse all the way to Washington to see the President if the strong hand of death had not intervened and laid low this expositor of Ox Pasture Law."

Thus Mrs. Coe. One more story about Uncle Tommie Leete. The fire in the kitchen fireplace was out one morning and Uncle Tommie had to kindle it. He hung a bunch of "top-tow", the refuse of flax, from the trammel hook on the crane, intending to flash the powder in the pan of his gun, ignite the top-tow and drop the blazing mass into the waiting shavings, this process being quicker than the use of flint, steel and tinder. Uncle Tommie pulled the trigger and a bullet bored a hole through the bedroom door beyond which Aunt Anna was taking her morning nap. "Upon that", said Uncle Tommie, (his favorite expression) "Upon that, I'd forgot I'd loaded that gun for a hawk. Lucky your aunt wa'n't up".

\* \* \*

The house on the shore, built for Edmund Ward, passed at his death to the possession of his son-in-law, Nathaniel Cald-

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well, a merchant of Guilford. Nathaniel Caldwell was a Loyalist during the Revolutionary War and had *his* troubles then. His dwelling and store were on the east side of Guilford Green, probably the same house as that formerly occupied by his father-in-law, the Rev. Edmund Ward. By the fortune of the time the property was seized by Watson & Murray of New York on June 8, 1774, to cancel a debt of 81 pounds. In 1782, at the close of the war, the homestead was in the possession of the State of Connecticut and the treasurer of the State, John Lawrence, was selling it to Eli Foote and Asher Fairchild with the statement that Watson & Murray, merchants in New York, had their property adjudged forfeit to the use of the State. Two years later, 1784, Eli Foote and Asher Fairchild deeded this homestead back to Nathaniel Caldwell who was then occupying it. Probably this is the only instance of seizure of property in Guilford by the State in the history of the town. In 1796 Nathaniel Caldwell sold the homestead to Jedidiah Lathrop, the Major Lathrop of La Fayette's acquaintance, who built the present handsome residence, now the home of Dr. F. D. Smith. Nathaniel Caldwell went to reside in the house built by his father-in-law at "Sachem's Head Harbor in The Great Ox Pasture", the Rev. Mr. Ward having died in 1779.

Yet remembered is the tiny graveyard on the former bluff near this house and the tombstone with its half-obliterated inscription in memory of one, "—ard Godfrey of Taunton, who died August ye 8, 1795, in ye 42nd year of his age." It is said that he was a sailor who died of yellow fever when his ship was passing through Long Island Sound and was brought ashore and buried here, denoting that this burying ground was then in use. The stone, saved from destruction, now stands in the home lot of Edward Eliot, the former Caldwell place. No doubt the Rev. Edmund Ward was the first to be buried here. Older people remembered Caldwell gravestones and possibly there were slaves laid beside their master and mistress.

Aft'r the death of Nathaniel Caldwell and his wife the homestead passed into the possession of their son, Harry Cald-



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well, a business man in New York who was unfortunate in his transactions and lost the place. It knew many owners until 1850, approximately, when it became Benton property.

\* \* \*

In the summer of 1846, when the big shore hotel on the hill was popular with Hartford people, John Olmstead, a successful business man of that city, sat upon the hotel's broad verandah and looked down upon the little gambrel-roof house, a story and a half, that nestled among the trees. His mind was busy with the problem of his son, Frederick Law Olmstead, a young man whose fancy seemed turning toward the cultivation of the land. The father bought the little farmstead for his son but Sachem's Head held Frederick Law Olmstead only a year. The whole United States was to become his garden. The grounds of Central Park, New York, and of Leland Stanford University, California, attest to the national fame of the great landscape gardener of whom Sachem's Head neighbors once said pityingly, "Poor fellow! He will never make a living. Why, he is actually setting out bushes!"

One more Leete homestead awaits mention. On the brow of the hill overlooking Great Harbor, deserted for sixty years, is the old house place of the Benton family. It was a Leete homestead originally and old inhabitants said that here once lived "Widow 'Viah Leete"; that her husband, Simeon Leete, had the timber cut and piled for the erection of this house when he was called to fight the British who had landed at Leete's Island and was killed. The neighbors finished the house. His tombstone, originally erected on Guilford Green, now stands beside the highway in Leete's Island. He was the husband of Zerviah Leete, later "Widow 'Viah", who, with her children, removed to New York State in 1802. One son, Anson Leete, bought the land now known as Chatauqua Point for \$4.50 per acre and it bore the name of Leete's Point until 1875.

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New names were coming into the land records of The Great Ox Pasture. In 1805 George Kimberly bought land of the heirs of Solomon Leete and built the house by the sea, later known as the Roberts place. George Kimberly's son, Captain Eli Kimberly, was keeper of Faulkner's Island Light Station from 1818 to 1851. A nephew of George Kimberly's wife, Charles Faulkner, in 1806, bought the Solomon Leete house on the bluff from Pharez Leete. Eli Kirkham (Kircum) lived in the little house opposite the former Charles Benton place and there kept toll gate after the building of the Hartford turnpike.

Three prominent men of Guilford, Joel Tuttle, Frederick Griffing and Samuel Eliot, envisioned a line of steamers to run from New York to Sachem's Head when ice made impossible the navigation of the Connecticut River; these steamers to be met by stage coaches running between Hartford and Sachem's Head. So the Hartford turnpike was built about 1825, laid out, not by the towns, but by the State Legislature. It began at a rock in Sachem's Head Harbor and continued, sometimes over a new lay-out, sometimes over the old one, until it joined the New Haven and Durham turnpike in Durham. The new lay-out avoided the original Ox Pasture road from the Edward Eliot house to the foot of Lindley Benton's hill and built the present road, except that the section through Long Cove was made in 1888. From Mulberry Bridge to the next corner east is not original, Wild Rose Avenue having been the early road.

After the stage coach, the hotel. The house on the hill, which Solomon Leete had built to replace the one burned by the British and which his son, Pharez Leete, had sold to Charles Faulkner, was owned now by the Griffing family. Here was the nucleus of the summer hotel, the early Sachem's Head Hotel, which the manager, Agar Wildman, advertised in the Hartford Courant in 1835 as being accessible by steamers of the New Haven and Norwich Line and of the New York and Hartford Line while stages would meet the New York boats at New Haven. "In short", said Mr. Wildman, "This place presents

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so many attractions and is so easy of access that it is surpassed by no other summer resort". Mr. Wildman went on to pledge himself "that no exertion will be spared by him to make it agreeable to those who may favor him with their company". Sachem's Head became a popular seashore resort for the elite of Hartford society. The poetess, Lydia H. Sigourney, extolled thus its glories in the Hartford Courant of July 2, 1848: "Along the whole beautiful extent of coast, where Connecticut holds dalliance with the sea, there is no more desirable spot for a summer visit than this long favored locality of Sachem's Head".

In the early '60's, H. L. Scranton, formerly of Madison, became the proprietor and he, too, spared no effort to make the hotel property unsurpassed. Additions were built so that it became "the largest hotel between New York and Newport". More barns and bowling alleys were built, the grounds were laid out, and trees were transplanted from the forest, forming the grove which is there yet. Gay and fashionable society rode, drove, promenaded or sailed at Sachem's Head during the season. Then one night in June, 1865, the original Sachem's Head Hotel was burned and was not rebuilt.

## *The Tragedy Of The Daniel Brown Leete House*

**S**MALL thought of tragedy had Daniel Brown Leete when, in 1816, he built "Shaumpishuh", the house by the sea, for his bride, Electa Fowler, daughter of James Fowler of North Guilford.

Daniel Brown Leete was a son of Elijah Leete, whose homestead was later the Newhall property at Sachem's Head. He was a grandson of Solomon Leete, one of the pioneers at Sachem's Head.

Seven children were born to Daniel Brown Leete and his wife, Electa, and five lived to mature years; Jonathan, Elijah, Susan who became Mrs. Bottsford, Tempa whose married name was Wheeler, and Elizabeth, later Mrs. George Bowen of Guilford.

Jonathan and Elijah were diametrically opposite in temperament, Jonathan, ten years older than his brother, being quiet, methodical and a home-stayer while Elijah was gay, much in society and a favorite, especially with older people whom he was given to visiting. Jonathan followed the sea while Elijah worked the farm with his father and sang bass in the choir of the Episcopal Church in Guilford, his intimate friend, Spencer Foote, also being a member.

Captain Jonathan Leete was in the oyster trade for several years, sailing a schooner, "Reaper", built at West River bridge and owned by Captain James Frisbie whose home near the railroad in Guilford is now occupied by Harry L. Page and family. Captain Jonathan had difficulty in finding a deck hand of neatness to suit but at last picked up in New York a Lascar named John Lord, or Jackalow, who filled the position well. When he gave up command of the "Reaper" and returned to

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his father's farm, Captain Jonathan brought Jackalow with him. The deck hand soon learned the ways of the household and was regarded as a member of the family.

Jackalow's great fault was the love of gold. Paper money had no charm for him but the glitter and clink of gold he could not resist. Once in New York he had stolen \$100 from Captain Jonathan and had escaped to New Haven before he was captured. He shed tears and begged forgiveness so Captain Jonathan refused to appear against him and took him back into his service.

Captain Jonathan and Elijah Leete joined in the purchase of the 30-ton sloop, "Spray", in which to engage in the coasting trade, and Daniel Brown Leete mortgaged his farm to assist his sons in this enterprise. The "Spray" was painted flesh-color outside with yellow and red streaks, the inside bulwarks were green and the deck light lead color. She had a flush deck with centerboard and her port quarter had been stove and patched. Coasting vessels in those days did a flourishing trade, carrying to New York passengers and farm products and returning laden with city merchandise.

For two or three years the Leete brothers worked the "Spray", with Jackalow aboard as cook and deck hand. Several times Captain Jonathan was warned by friends to beware of Jackalow but his confidence in the Lascar remained unshaken.

In the spring of 1860 the Leete brothers were to be married, Jonathan being engaged to Miss Delia Hale and Elijah to Miss Josephine Hall. One more trip to New York was planned, then the double wedding was to take place.

The "Spray" was laden with hay and potatoes, David Benton of Sachem's Head being an important consignor, and the day set for sailing was Wednesday, March 14, 1860. Andrew Foote of Nut Plains was to go along as a passenger and came down on Tuesday evening to spend the night and be ready for an early start on the morning tide. Elijah owned a melodeon and the young people passed the evening singing hymns. Then Elijah turned to his sister and said, "There



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Elizabeth, you can have the melodeon". Mrs. Bowen kept that melodeon as long as she lived.

The "Spray", with its crew and passenger, sailed for New York next morning. Andrew Foote came home another way but a week passed and the "Spray" did not return. Daniel Brown Leete became anxious.

"It's time the boys were home", he said anxiously but the mother, of a calmer temperament, replied, "Don't worry about the boys, they are all right somewhere."

Still the father kept up his vigil and the days went by until Sunday, March 25, 1860. On that day the news came, not by telegraph, nor telephone, Sunday newspapers nor radio, for of those Guilford knew nothing. It was brought by a Madison captain just back from a trip up the Sound.

The church bells had ceased ringing and the four churches about Guilford Green held each its worshipping congregation when a messenger ran in the door of the Episcopal Church, up the stairs to the choir loft and whispered in the ear of Spencer Foote. He, white and agitated, sprang up and rushed from the church. Like magic the whisper ran through congregation and town, "The Leete boys have been murdered by Jackalow".

Within ten minutes the churches were deserted and an angry, vengeful crowd assembled on Guilford Green. Threats of vengeance were uttered until the more immediate question arose, "Who will tell the family?" Franklin Phelps and John Benton finally consented to bear the ill tidings. They went down to the farmhouse by the sea but had no need to speak. Daniel Brown Leete saw them coming and knew why they came. That day and for many days the farmhouse was filled with friends, a hundred at a time, lamenting, comforting, questioning.

For days went on the piecing together of the details of the tragedy. On Tuesday, March 27, six days after the discovery of the murder, the New Haven Register carried an account, copied from the New York Tribune, of the affair. This paper could be obtained only from the newsboy on the



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train so the entire town met that train. The time of the train stop was short, papers were snatched and some were paid for, some not. The important thing was to get the news.

It was learned that the "Spray's" run to New York was made safely, as Andrew Foote could testify. The cargo was sold and about \$500 in gold and bills was stowed in the cabin. The "Spray" turned homeward, was seen at various points along the course by other craft. On a dark, foggy night the "Spray" anchored off Norwalk, as did other coasting vessels. Cries of "Murder!" and "Open the cabin door!" were heard coming from the "Spray".

The next news obtained was that the "Spray" was in collision with the "Lucinda" of Rockaway, about four miles north of Barnegat, N. J. on Wednesday, March 21, at 2 P. M. Later in the day the schooner, "Thomas E. French", out of Suffolk, Va., passed and Captain Webb saw the "Spray" on her beam ends while a short distance away to windward lay at anchor a yawl boat with an Oriental aboard. Although the sea was rough the Oriental asked no assistance but Captain Webb motioned to him to cut the painter. He did so and was taken aboard. He pretended not to understand English and, when asked what had become of his captain, made signs that he was drowned. When the seamen began to joke him he became more communicative and told a confused story.

He said the "Spray" had sunk, after the collision with the "Lucinda", carrying down the captain and his brother. Afterward he said the main sheet struck the captain and knocked him overboard; again that the captain was on the bow at the time of the collision and was thrown overboard by the impact; lastly that the captain was sick in the cabin and so went down with the sloop.

Captain Webb had occasion to run into Little Egg Harbor and there lay the "Lucinda", whose captain distinctly stated that no one but the Oriental was aboard the "Spray" at the time of the collision, that the deck of the sloop was strewn

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with furniture and bedding as if the cabin had been searched for plunder.

In spite of the circumstantial evidence against Jackalow, Captain Webb made no effort to detain him for delivery to officials in New York, but allowed him to accompany him ashore unguarded, in the small boat. When the boat landed Jackalow made one bound and disappeared in the crowd.

The "Spray", lying on her beam ends, was found by a pilot boat and towed into New York. The name was found on a burgee, the sloop having been completely stripped of sails and rigging. Then in New York Harbor, the cabin of the sloop was examined and signs of murder were there—a portion of a man's shirt stained with what appeared to be blood, other blood stains spattered about the cabin.

Descriptions of Jackalow were sown broadcast. A Philadelphia train, running into Jersey City, passed on the road bed an Oriental, recognized by engineer and brakeman as answering the newspaper description. Jersey City police were notified and started out but Jackalow had already been arrested at Hackensack Bridge, by another party. At first he gave a fictitious name but later admitted he was Jackalow and repeated his story of the wreck. He was found to have \$389 in cash on him and several articles that had been the property of the Leete brothers.

A few weeks later two bodies were washed ashore on Long Island and members of the Leete family went across the Sound but could not surely identify them. If these were not the bodies of Jonathan and Elijah Leete, no other trace of them was ever found though the shores were closely watched.

Jackalow was brought before Commissioner Vroom of Jersey City. He was calm until Mrs. Leete and her daughter, Elizabeth, appeared in court. Seeing them he wept violently and asked to speak with them but was not permitted to do so by his counsel.

Positive evidence of the identity of the bodies was lacking, so Jackalow's \$389 went to the lawyers and Jackalow was set

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free on condition that he leave the country forever, which he was doubtless only too glad to do. The only point proved concerning him was announced by the New Haven Register of April 9, 1860, "Jackalow proves to be not Chinese but Japanese. He was brought to this country in Commodore Perry's flagship, 'Mississippi' ".

There were no witnesses to the actual crime but it was believed by all that, while the "Spray" lay at anchor off Norwalk that foggy night, Jackalow bided his time until one brother was asleep in the cabin, the other standing watch on deck, then locked the cabin door, thus effectually preventing the brothers from united action; that he crept upon the man on deck in the dense fog and felled him, though not before the latter had time to cry out "Murder!"; that, awakened by his brother's voice, the man in the cabin shouted "Open the cabin door!" whereupon Jackalow opened a skylight and shot him, spattering the cabin walls with blood; that he then threw the bodies overboard, ransacked the cabin until he found the money, then got the sloop underway.

By good luck rather than good seamanship Jackalow worked the sloop to South Brooklyn, provisioned it with a tierce of rice and a cask of kerosene oil and was in the Atlantic, off Barnegat, bound south, when the collision occurred. Was he sailing for his native land with his stolen wealth? The men of Guilford thought so.

Daniel Brown Leete had mortgaged his farm by the sea to buy the "Spray". With sons and sloop lost, all was lost. Though he and his wife made their home to the last in the farmhouse by the sea the portion of their old age was sorrow and mourning.

The house now bears the name of "Shaumpishuh" yet seems ever looking out across the sea, watching for those young men who, all unwittingly, sailed away forever on that March morning in 1860.

## ***Nathaniel Johnson Homestead***

*(Elizabeth G. Davis, Collaborator)*

WILLIAM JOHNSON, who came from New Haven to Guilford as early as 1653, had his home lot on the west side of Petticoat Lane (Fair Street) extending from Samuel Spencer's north line to Dr. Evans's south line. He married Francis Bushnell's daughter, Elizabeth, and they were parents of ten children. The ninth, Deacon Samuel Johnson, (1670-1727) succeeded to the ownership of the homestead.

Deacon Samuel Johnson married Mary Sage of Middletown. They were the parents of eleven children, the second of whom was later the renowned Dr. Samuel Johnson, first president of King's College, now Columbia University. Their sixth child was Nathaniel Johnson, with whom this story is concerned. Four years younger than Nathaniel was William Johnson, only 18 years old when their father died in 1727.

In the inventory of Deacon Samuel Johnson's estate was the item; "Guilford home lot, 6½ acres, 22 rods, with house, barn and workshop". Set to Nathaniel in the division of 1728 was the north part with dwelling house and barn; to William, the south part with workshop. When William Johnson, then living in Durham, became 21 in 1730 he deeded the south part of the homestead to his brother, Nathaniel Johnson, who then owned it all.

In 1727 Nathaniel Johnson married Margery Morgan, granddaughter of Governor William Jones and great granddaughter of Governor Theophilus Eaton of the New Haven Colony. It is believed that Nathaniel Johnson built for his wife, more than 200 years ago, the substantial house that is now the home of Captain and Mrs. Leonidas Seward.

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The title of Captain Nathaniel Johnson resulted from his captaincy of a Guilford company on the expedition to Fort William Henry in 1757.

Margery Morgan Johnson died in 1752. Nathaniel's second wife was Diana Ward Hubbard, widow of Daniel Hubbard and mother of Levi Hubbard, builder of the Black House, and of Dr. Bela Hubbard who crossed the Atlantic to be ordained as a priest of the Church of England in 1764 and who was the first minister of the Episcopal Church in Guilford until 1767, when he was transferred to New Haven. Nathaniel Johnson was a warden of this church at its organization in 1744 and some of the church services were held in his house up to 1751 when the little wooden church was built on the Green.

Nathaniel Johnson occupied the homestead until his death in 1793. To his unmarried daughter, Rachel Johnson, he deeded, in 1787, "In consideration of her long continuance of faithful services in my family, the south part of my dwelling house, where I now live, containing large south room and bedroom adjoining, with chamber over said large room, half of kitchen and east division of cellar".

In 1793, the year of his death, he deeded to his son, Samuel Johnson, "for 50 pounds, for services rendered and for primogeniture, the north half of the house I now live in, with land on which it stands."

In his deed to Rachel, the father had not mentioned the south half of the attic nor the kitchen chamber, so these remote parts of his dwelling were included in the inventory of his estate, the remainder of the house having been disposed of by the above deeds.

After Rachel Johnson's death her heirs deeded her part of the house to her brother, Samuel Johnson, whose wife was Margaret Collins. They lived in the family homestead and here, in 1757, was born their son, Samuel Johnson, Jr.

For generations teaching had been hereditary in the Johnson family, stated the scholarly Henry Robinson, who wrote,



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"Possibly for the greater period from 1750 to 1805-10, Samuel Johnson, Sr., and his son, Samuel Johnson, Jr., taught the academy on Guilford Green."

Unlike his father, Samuel Johnson, Jr. did not spend all his life in the family homestead, as the family Bible contains the record of his removal to Bethlehem in 1786, when 29 years old. Later he returned to Guilford. He was the author of the little 198-page school dictionary published in 1789 by Edward O'Brien in New Haven. The late Henry Robinson stated that the British Museum and Yale University Library each had a copy of this dictionary. In 1800 Samuel Johnson collaborated with the Rev. John Eliot of East Guilford in putting out another dictionary of 223 pages and nearly 9,000 words.

In 1780 Samuel Johnson, Jr., married Huldah Hill whose people lived on the northwest corner of Guilford Green (Mrs. F. C. Spencer's home lot). At the death of his father in 1808 he became the owner of the homestead formerly the home of his grandfather, Captain Nathaniel Johnson.

One of the four sons of Samuel and Huldah Johnson was Samuel Collins Johnson (1792-1872). He married, in 1824, Clarissa Frances Baldwin. His second wife was Olive Spencer, daughter of Samuel Spencer and sister of James Spencer. To James Spencer, in 1868, Samuel C. Johnson sold the Johnson homestead in Fair Street, property that had been in the Johnson family more than two centuries.

The new owner was a brother of Isaac Stow Spencer, founder of I. S. Spencer's Sons, and had been living at Long Hill in the house later occupied by Horace Wall's family. He died in 1874, his wife, Emmeline Butler, in 1875. From that estate Edward Long bought the former Johnson homestead in 1879. His nephew and administrator, Vincent Scully, sold it to the Seward family in 1913.

The house stands at a slight angle to the street and to the line of adjacent houses, all of later dates. An unusual feature



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in a wooden house, the front wall is thick enough to permit deep window seats in the front windows. Perhaps Margery Morgan, Nathaniel Johnson's bride, remembered such window seats in her grandfather's house in New Haven. They were a feature of the house of his contemporary, the Rev. Henry Whitfield, in Guilford.

### *Joseph Chittenden House*

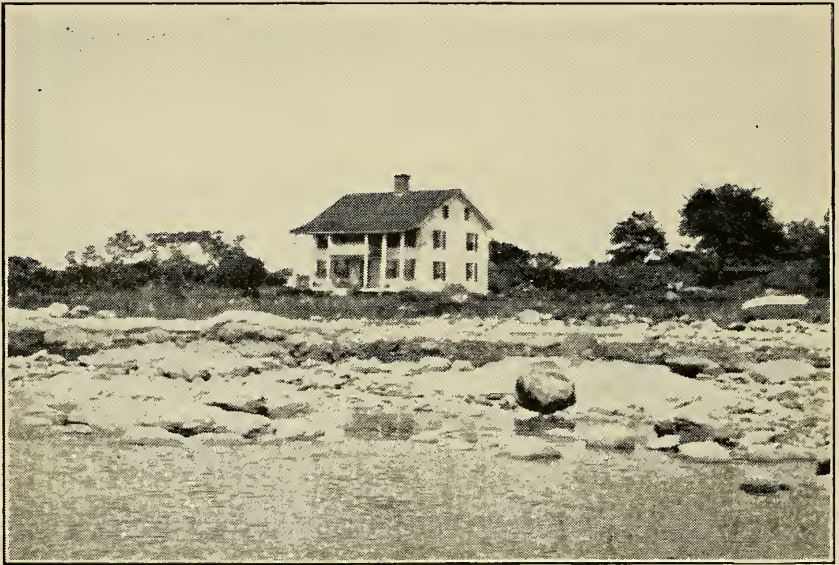
THE house in Fair Street which the late Mrs. Mary Hubbard Bishop bought from Mrs. Bertha Palmer Ryer of Branford in 1921, and which Mrs. Ryer's father, A. B. Palmer, had bought in 1871, was originally the home of Joseph Chittenden.

He bought, on May 24, 1766, from Nathaniel Johnson a part of the latter's home lot near the dwelling of Captain Reuben Leete on the present site of the octagon house. Captain Reuben Leete's house also stood on the early Johnson home lot, he having bought the land in 1744 from Noah Hodgkin who had obtained it from Sergeant Nathaniel Johnson.

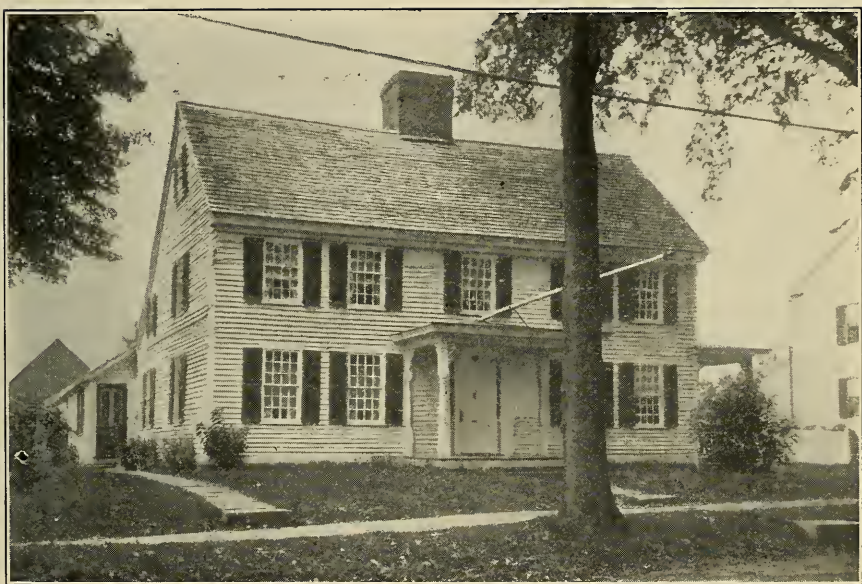
Joseph Chittenden's third wife was Carine Ward, widow of Asher Stone. She had two sons, John Stone who lived and died in the house at the head of Fair Street, on the Guilford Institute lot; William Stone who had a farm at Guilford Point.

The heirs of Joseph and Carine Chittenden sold the homestead, August 25, 1827, to Julia Scranton, widow of Ira Benton. Her two daughters, Harriet and Juliana Benton, died young a year or two later. The Widow Julia Benton finally married Martin Seward, father of George Seward, Sr. She was a sister of Amanda Scranton, wife of William Stewart Frisbie, who lived in the house now owned by Earle B. Leete. Heirs of Julia Benton Seward sold the place to A. B. Palmer, Mrs. Ryer's father, who came here from Cornwall. The barn was struck by lightning and burned in the summer of 1898.





DANIEL BROWN LEETE HOUSE, SACHEM'S HEAD, BUILT 1816



NATHANIEL JOHNSON HOMESTEAD





## *Two Hodgkin Houses*

THE SEWARD HOUSE in Fair Street, owned now by Mrs. Ruth Seward Spalding, was built by Noah Hodgkin, Jr., in 1770, shortly before the War of the Revolution.

Noah Hodgkin, Jr., was a son of Noah Hodgkin, Sr., who, August 15, 1761, had bought a trifle over a half-acre of land of Silas and Sarah Benton and there built a house, the present home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Selden Clark, Fair Street. On July 4, 1769, the two Noahs, father and son, bought each 53 rods of land, measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  rods front and rear, of Philip and Ann Man between the dwelling of Capt. Nathaniel Johnson on the north and that of Noah Hodgkin, Sr., on the south. Here Noah Hodgkin, Jr., 27 years old and married, built a home, the present Spalding house. Upon the death of his father in 1783 the settlement of the estate gave "To Noah Hodgkin, Jr., that part of the land of Noah Hodgkin, Sr., formerly bought of Philip and Ann Man, with dwelling house standing partly thereon and partly on Noah Hodgkin's own land, together with other buildings." So house and lot became wholly the property of the son.

The family under consideration was descended from John Hodgkin of Essex, England, who probably came to Guilford about 1648, and who took the oath of fidelity May 11, 1654. He married Mary Bishop, April 4, 1670, and died January, 1681-2. The name of Hodgkin was gradually modified to Hotchkiss and finally to Hotchkiss.

On September 11, 1786, Huldah Hill, wife of Samuel Johnson, Jr., bought Noah Hodgkin's house and lot, selling it May 30, 1800, to Benjamin Frisbie. By this later date Samuel Johnson, Jr., and Huldah, his wife, were living next door, in

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the house of his grandfather, Nathaniel, of his father, Samuel Johnson, Sr., and of his father's unmarried sister, Rachel. The deed identifies the property being sold to Benjamin Frisbie as "the same land we lately bought of Noah Hotckin, dwelling house, etc., exempting the clothier's shop if any part of it should stand on said land."

By this clause of exemption may have been sown the seeds of the controversy which later waxed heavy between Samuel Johnson and Dr. Strong.

May 30, 1807, Benjamin Frisbie sold the homestead to his brother, Russell Frisbie, then 26 years of age, who later was the grandfather of the late Dr. Redfield B. West, and built the house now occupied by Mrs. West.

On March 31, 1813, Russell Frisbie sold the homestead of Noah Hodgkin to Dr. Lyman Strong of Hartford, who took up his residence there.

Dr. Strong's quarrel with his neighbor, Samuel Johnson, began immediately for on July 5, 1813, Abraham Chittenden, Abraham Stone and Timothy Stone, a committee appointed by the town, rendered their decision as to the boundary line. That the disputants rejected the committee's decision is made apparent by a record of May 18, 1818, when Dr. Strong and Samuel Johnson were placed under bonds of \$500.00 to accept the boundary decision of the committee, which consisted this time of Deacon Thomas Hart, Captain John Caldwell and Captain Thomas Burgis.

That this final decision was unfavorable to Dr. Strong may be inferred. On June 10, 1818, less than a month later, he sold the homestead to Martin Seward and removed to Hebron and Colchester. The homestead passed, in due season, to Martin Seward's son, the late George M. Seward, then to his granddaughters, the Misses Seward, one of whom continues to reside there, and finally to his great granddaughter, Mrs. Ruth Seward Spalding.

Noah Hodgkin, Sr., who built the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. Selden Clark soon after 1761, was the father

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of the Rev. Beriah Hodgkin. In the division of the father's estate in 1786, the south part of house and land was set to his widow, Hannah Hodgkin, as dower, while the north half of the house and land went to a son, Beriah.

The Rev. C. E. Stowe, in his address at the Quarto-Millennial Celebration, related that Beriah Hodgkin was consecrated to the Lord before his birth by his mother, Hannah, in a moment of spiritual exaltation, she, who had already lost four children by death, following the example of another Hannah, wife of Elkanah, an Ephrathite, who gave her son, Samuel, to the Lord and to his service in the Temple.

Before he was seven years of age Beriah Hodgkin had read the Bible through. He was brought up in the old Fourth Church, which had split off from the First Congregational Church about 1729. At the time Beriah Hodgkin, in his impressionable years, sat under the fervent preaching of the Rev. James Sproat, the church was in its most flourishing period. Beriah Hodgkin was not able to secure a college education but studied for the ministry with the Rev. Amzi Lewis in Goshen, N. Y.

In August, 1784, the Rev. Beriah Hodgkin was hired for six months to preach in the Fourth Church. He remained as pastor until 1789. He sold his house in Fair Street to Benjamin Frisbie, September 17, 1792, reserving his mother's dower right to her, and in 1793 was installed as pastor in Greenville, N. Y., whither some of his people had already removed. There was then in this region, from the Hudson River to Oneida County, no Congregational minister but himself and but few of any denomination and the Rev. Beriah Hodgkin carried spiritual comfort and consolation among these settlers until about 1825. He died in 1829 in Steuben County, N. Y.

With the death of Hannah, widow of Noah Hodgkin, Sr., the name of Hodgkin ceased in this neighborhood.

## *David Hull's House*

*(Elizabeth G. Davis, Collaborator)*

THE house in Fair Street, owned by I. S. Spencer's Sons, Inc., and occupied by Charles Clore and family, was built in 1766 by David Hull, on land bought by him that year from Nathaniel Johnson. In 1791 David Hull sold the homestead to Seth Bishop, the home lot being bounded on the south by Nathaniel Johnson. Seth Bishop had married, in 1789, two years earlier, Hannah Parmelee. Their daughter, Polly Maria, in later years, married Jonathan Bishop of State Street. In 1796 Seth Bishop sold this salt-box house to Ambrose Hoadley, a native of Branford.

Ambrose Hoadley was a son of James Hoadley of Paved Street, Branford, and Lydia Buell of Killingworth, (Clinton). His wife was Wealthy Trueby, a daughter of Giles Trueby who was a charter member (1771) of St. Alban's Lodge and who died east of Boston after being a prisoner of the British troops. In 1802 Ambrose Hoadley sold the place to Parnel Griffin and moved to a house beyond Jones's Bridge.

The identity of Parnel Griffin is not definitely determined. She may have been Parnel Bates, daughter of Martin Bates of Hanover, N. J., who married her cousin, Timothy Griffing of Guilford, in 1794, as his second wife, although they moved to Richmond, Mass., in 1795. No deed has been found recording the transfer but in 1808 the place was owned by John and Parnel Hathaway, the recurrence of the name, Parnel, suggesting relationship.

In 1808 the Hathaways sold to Darius and Friend Collins who sold, in 1811, to William M. Griffing.

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The ownership changed seven times from 1814 to 1830, several of these owners living in Wallingford. In 1830 Calvin Norton bought the place from Jonathan Morse and in 1832 sold the south half to Alpha Morse. It was the home of Philander Walker, until 1862, then Robert Sutton lived there. In 1882 the town of Guilford sold the place to Mrs. Mary J. Galvin. She, her son, William, and her daughter, Mary, lived there for some years. Mother and daughter died and the son did not survive many years. From the heirs I. S. Spencer's Sons, Inc, bought the place.

### *The Griffing Brothers*

THE house in Fair Street, long the home of Charles Yale and the late Mrs. Yale, has a south chamber of unusual height. This became the meeting place of St. Alban's Lodge, No. 38, A. F. & A. M., probably about 1802, when its owner, Captain Joel Griffing, was made master of the lodge. Henry W. Chittenden, who married his first wife, Charlotte Griffing, daughter of Captain Joel Griffing, in 1820, stated in after years that the lodge was meeting overhead when he was courting Charlotte, evidence that this was the meeting place of the Masons for several years.

The lodge room extended across the entire south side of the second floor, space that has since been divided into three rooms, and the ceiling was raised about a foot higher than that of the other rooms. This resulted in a raised floor, like a platform, across the south side of the attic, an arrangement that is yet in evidence.

The house was built in 1796 by Seth Bishop, who had bought the land, in 1791, from David Hull. Seth Bishop, father-in-law of Jonathan Bishop of State Street, lived in the David Hull house from 1791 to April, 1796, when he sold it to Ambrose Hoadley. On the corner stone of his new mansion he cut the date, 1796. On October 20, 1797, Seth Bishop mortgaged dwelling house, shop and barn to Joel and Nathaniel Griffing, evidence that the present house was built already. Seth Bishop sold the house, August 11, 1801, to Captain Joel Griffing, whose home it was until he died, May 8, 1826.

After Captain Griffing died, Captain Richard Fowler and family moved in to take care of the Widow Griffing, the former Mary Starr and second wife of Joel Griffing. She lived until April 3, 1858. Captain Richard Fowler took title to the



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property in 1852. A few years later the place was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles Loper, parents of the late Mrs. Yale.

Joel Griffing's house was copied, with some elaboration, by his brother, Judge Nathaniel Griffing, who built the house at the foot of Fair Street which was the home in later years, of Mrs. Hannah Brown and her daughter, Mrs. Henry E. Fowler, and is now owned by Dr. Carlyle S. White. Owing to the fact that both houses were the homes of Griffings, the Nathaniel Griffing house has, not unnaturally, been confused with the Joel Griffing house as the early meeting place of St. Alban's Lodge.

The land upon which the Nathaniel Griffing house stands is a small section of the original home lot set out to Robert Kitchell, one of the Whitfield Company and a signer of the Plantation Covenant, who removed to New Jersey in 1666, selling his homestead to John Norton. Thereafter it was the Norton homestead for 140 years.

The original home lot extended north to the present northern boundary of the home lot of Samuel Spencer. The Norton family had a farm on Moose Hill, and an early generation built there the ancient Norton house which was the childhood home of Frederick E. Norton now of Wethersfield. Even the fourth John Norton had his house in town and his farm on Moose Hill as late as 1785 when he drew his will, leaving the farm to his son, John Norton, the fifth, while the house in town was willed to the children of a deceased son, Nathan Norton, whose home it already was.

It was the early death of Nathan Norton in 1785 at the age of 33 years, leaving his widow, Elizabeth Roberts, and four children of ages ranging from 12 years to less than one year, that reminded the father, John Norton, of the mortality of man and the uncertainty of life. He made his will. Provision for the little family of his youngest son, the deceased Nathan, was as follows:

"To my grandchildren, heirs of my son, Nathan, deceased, the remainder of my home lot in town which I have not al-

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ready disposed of, with dwelling house thereon, to be equally divided and the son to have a double share, or two parts."

The son, Elijah, thus had the Biblical double portion of the elder son. There had been another boy, Elisha, born a year earlier than Elijah, who had been killed by a cartwheel when a year old. Thus Elisha's mantle of birthright fell upon Elijah, reversing Biblical precedent.

The other children were Elizabeth, nine years old when her grandfather made his will, who married later John Hodgkin; Lydia, two years old, and Amanda, an infant of a few months.

The negotiations by which Nathaniel Griffing bought the Norton homestead covered a period of 14 years. In 1792 Elijah Norton, then 19 years old, his sister, Elizabeth, 16 years old and the wife of John Hodgkin, and their mother, the Widow Elizabeth Norton, deeded this homestead to Nathaniel Griffing.

Judge Griffing was an astute and experienced business man and he appears not to have been fully satisfied with this deed. Seven years later, January 23, 1799, Elijah Norton signed a paper which bound him to Nathaniel Griffing in the sum of \$500.00, the condition being that his minor sisters, Lydia, aged 16, and Amanda, aged 14, should make a good and legal deed to the said Griffing, within one year after arriving at the age of 21 years, of their right and title in the south part of the home lot where their father, Nathan Norton, had lived, with the house thereon standing. Upon their giving such deed Elijah's obligation would become void, otherwise to remain in force.

The deeds were forthcoming in due season, but the sisters, when they arrived at legal age, were living in New York State, where evidently the entire family had gone. On September 27, 1803, Lydia Norton of Manlius, "Anadorga" Co., N. Y., as Onondaga County was quaintly mis-called by the legal gentleman who drew the deed, made over to Nathaniel Griffing her right and title in the property.

Amanda followed suit on May 8, 1807, being at that time the wife of Aaron Wood, Jr., of Manlius. And so the last

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shred of Norton title to the homestead was disposed of and Judge Griffing was secure in the title to the handsome mansion house which he had built and which is yet a substantial residence of the town.

It was only the south part of the home lot of John Norton that passed into Griffing ownership.

As the home of the leading man of Guilford until his death in 1845, the house of Judge Nathaniel Griffing was a mansion of distinction. It was the home, also, of his son, Frederick Redfield Griffing, the first president of the New Haven and New London Railroad. His untimely death in 1852, leaving his widowed mother bereaved of her only remaining son, was a crushing blow.

Three generations of Griffings, Jasper, Nathaniel and Frederick, had been interested in maritime enterprises. Their ships sailed the seas of commerce and brought home merchandise. So it was that a store, for the sale of imported wares, was built on the street corner of the Griffing home lot. This building was later removed to the Stone House property, which belonged to the Griffing family from 1776 until 1900. About 1868 it was moved again, this time to Guilford Point, and now is the east cottage there.

The widow of Nathaniel Griffing lived on in the Griffing mansion until June 1, 1865, when she died, lacking but two days of completing her 98th year. She had survived her husband and seven of her eight children. Notwithstanding her bereavement, Mrs. Griffing gave much time, money and thought for the benefaction of others. She planned for the youth of the town a seminary and the Guilford Institute thus took form and shape. Church enterprises found a firm friend in her.

Mrs. Griffing was eleven years of age when, in 1778, General Lafayette passed through Guilford. He and his staff were entertained at the house of her father, Samuel Brown, Esquire, on the site of the Eliot Davis Building, and she recalled every detail of the great Frenchman's first visit to Guilford.

### *The Fosdick Place*

**I**N 1719 there came to Guilford from New London, John Fosdick, a shipwright, who married Jane Bradley of Guilford in that year and for her built a house hard by Jones's Bridge. It was a "Mansion House", as described in the deed of the land given by Jonathan Rossiter to John Fosdick on March 11, 1721. The boundary line began at a rock on the river bank. The northern boundary is described as being "the street leading over the bridge called Jones."

Jones's Bridge was named for Caleb Jones whose home, near the site of Mrs. Louise Hall's house, was probably the nearest residence in 1719.

It is probable that John Fosdick brought his trade of shipwright with him, for this was an ideal location for the ship building industry. The records show John Fosdick, in 1744, three years before his death, as being one of four men who built a wharf near Jones's Bridge "for ye free use of all the Inhabitants of this Town as they may have ocation for the same in a Regular Manner without Unnecessarily Incumbering the Same to ye Detriment of other Inhabitants of ye Town."

This John Fosdick had a brother, Samuel Fosdick, who was the ancestor of Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Elizabeth Fosdick, a daughter of the shipwright, became the wife of William Chittenden, who died, leaving his widow with several children. Then she married Reuben Stone, as his second wife, and was the mother of three more children. One of her sons, Luther Chittenden, perished of small pox in the army in 1777. She, herself, died in 1787 and in 1789 all her children, Chittendens and Stones, joined in selling the home-

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stead of their honored mother, Elizabeth Stone, to James Leete.

Now James Leete was a son of Solomon Leete, a settler in "The Great Ox Pasture". James Leete also followed the business of ship building, until his death, by drowning, in the river near his home. His brother, Captain Thomas Leete, settled the estate and deeded the homestead to a son, James Leete, Jr., in 1796. This son married Zibiah Miller and lived here until his own death in 1838.

Joel and Nathaniel Griffing, who were builders and owners of ships which, launched from their shipyard near by, sailed the high seas and engaged in the West India trade, had some interest in the Leete property as evidenced by a deed of 1814 from them to Zibiah Leete of the homestead. After her husband's death, the Widow Leete lived on in the homestead. A son, James T. Leete, was located in Philadelphia and to him she deeded the homestead in 1846, he, in return, guaranteeing to her the life use of the property. The next year, however, James T. Leete sold the property to three men, William B. Baldwin, Alvah B. Goldsmith and George A. Graves and to them, in 1849, the Widow Zibiah signed over her life interest.

And now the old Fosdick homestead became the scene of busy industry. The Guilford Manufacturing Company, a joint stock corporation capitalized at \$20,000, bought "the James Leete place" and the old mansion house had as close companions a foundry, machine shops and all the equipment of a manufactory of steam engines, iron castings and machinery. But by 1856 the molten iron had ceased to flow, the chimneys no longer flaunted to the wind their banners of smoke and silence fell upon the factory on the river bank. Coasting vessels sought elsewhere for their cargoes. The buildings were sold, one portion being moved and becoming the Music Hall building on the west side of Guilford Green; another, removed to the corner of Meadow Street, was made into a house, afterward burned; two sections of the old building remain on the ground today, having been built over into dwellings.



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After passing through various transactions involved in the settlement of the affairs of the Guilford Manufacturing Company, the old homestead was purchased by George Parmelee in 1860. His widow, in 1868, sold the house to the town of Guilford for an almshouse.



### *Isaac Stow's Property*

BUILT in 1743 by Isaac Stow for his bride, Hepzibah Collins, daughter of John Collins of New Haven, this house in Broad Street, now the home of Mrs. Sophia Bishop, is a fine example of the third-period houses in Guilford.

Isaac Stow, from Middletown, bought the land, a quarter-acre, from Mindwell Stone, part of the home lot of her father, Joseph Stone, on April 6, 1743. The Stones owned the land east and south of him, while on the west was the home lot formerly the second William Leete's, then occupied by his son, Solomon Leete, who later lived at Sachem's Head.

Isaac Stow built not only a house and barn but a smith shop. Such a shop then was more than a place for shoeing horses and cattle. It was a hardware manufactory, where hinges, andirons and other house hardware were made.

His oldest daughter, Olive Stow, in 1768, married Christopher Spencer, son of Stephen Spencer, who lived on the east side of Guilford Green. Stephen Spencer, too, was a blacksmith. Ashes of his forge have been unearthed in the yard of Charles D. Hubbard's house, a later structure. Olive Spencer died in 1783.

Meantime Isaac Stow, Jr., brother of Olive, who had been living in Richmond, Mass., in 1777, and in Ballstown, N. Y., in 1778, was killed by Indians in 1780. His widow, Mary Pierson Stow, returning to Guilford, became the second wife of Christopher Spencer and lived in this house which Isaac Stow had sold to Christopher Spencer in 1772, a year before his own death.

Christopher Spencer, who died in 1796, provided in his will that Widow Mary Pierson Spencer should have the life

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use of this house and, after her death, title should pass to her sons, Stephen, Alanson and Harvey Spencer. But when the Widow Mary died in 1846, none of her sons was living and the property passed to the grandchildren. All the other heirs relinquished their rights in the property and the title was acquired by Elizabeth Patten Bloom Spencer, daughter of Alanson Spencer, deceased in 1847. She made her home here until 1854, when she sold the place to Madame Abigail Gregory.

Abigail Gregory was a daughter of Wyllys Eliot, whose home was the present Four Elms House, and a granddaughter of Colonel Andrew Ward, east side of the Green. Her sister, Ruth Eliot, was the wife of the Rev. David Baldwin, Episcopal clergyman, whose home was the present Nelson Griswold house. She had married Levi Gregory of Wilton, Conn., and had one son, Eliot Gregory.

Two years later, in 1856, Eliot Gregory bought Gablehurst from the Rev. E. Edwin Hall and made his home there. He died in 1863, a half-year before his mother died. Her will, drawn while both were living, left the house in Broad Street to Eliot Gregory and provided that, after his death, it should pass to Henry W. Baldwin, son of her nephew, William W. Baldwin. In case Henry did not live to the age of 21 years, it was to go to William W. Baldwin.

Henry W. Baldwin, grandson of the Rev. David and Ruth Baldwin, was 18 years old in 1866, when his father, William Ward Baldwin, quit-claimed the house of Madame Gregory to Benjamin Corbin of Guilford.

Corbin sold the house next year to William Fuller of New Haven, who, in 1869, sold to Diodate J. Spencer.

The new owner was not a member of the Spencer family that had owned this house in earlier years. He was a son of Reuben Spencer of Hebron, Conn., and had married, in the Episcopal Church in Guilford, Leah, daughter of David Rossiter of North Guilford. These were the parents of Mrs. Sophia

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Bishop, the present occupant, and her brother, the late George V. Spencer.

The name of Isaac Stow, who built this house, is perpetuated in the name of I. S. Spencer's Sons, Inc., whose iron foundry was founded by Isaac Stow Spencer, a grandson, in 1857.

*A Widow In 1759*

WHEN the old family desk, that had belonged to the late William Henry Eliot, and to his father and grandfather before him, was sent by its present owner, Harry W. Parmelee, to the cabinet-maker a few years ago to be restored, no one knew that the desk contained a secret compartment. Yet a secret compartment the cabinet-maker discovered, cleverly contrived and controlled by a spring, and its spaces were filled with papers, yellow and brittle with age, that had not seen the light of day for a century and a half. William Henry Eliot, it was evident, had not known of the secret compartment, nor had his father, Samuel Eliot, 1764-1843. It was the secret of the generation before him.

The desk belonged originally to Wyllys Eliot, who lived from 1731 to 1777 and whose home was the house in Water Street now known as the Four Elms, which his son, Samuel Eliot sold to Peletiah Leete in 1796. Wyllys Eliot was a leading business man in Guilford, dealing much in real estate. In 1772 he bought the Old Stone House from the heirs of Major Robert Thompson of London, England, through the agency of Andrew Oliver, Esq., of Boston, attorney for the Thompson heirs. This transaction involved a voluminous correspondence, the letters of which Wyllys Eliot put carefully away in this secret compartment of his desk, thus preserving them until the present time.

But interest centers chiefly in two older and even more tattered letters, dated August 16, 1759, at Ticonderoga, which must have been placed in this compartment by Mrs. Wyllys Eliot herself. Who was she?

She was born Abigail Ward. Her father was Col. Andrew Ward, an officer in the French and Indian War, whose home

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was east side of Guilford Green. Her mother was the aristocratic and beautiful Elizabeth Fowler who lived to be almost a century old. Abigail married, about 1753, Dr. Giles Hull who had come to Guilford in 1753 and whose home on the west side of Guilford Green, the site later owned by Mrs. H. W. Murlless, was sold by his heirs to Nathaniel Rossiter in 1792.

Dr. Giles Hull enlisted in the second French and Indian War and went to the front as Captain Hull. His brother-in-law, Captain Andrew Ward, afterwards General Andrew Ward whose home was the Foote farm in Nut Plains, was in the same expedition. Capt. Hull died at Ticonderoga but not in battle. He died of measles, an ailment bound to be fatal in the exposure and privation of an ancient army camp.

The letter, written by Cornelius Hull, probably a brother of the dead man, bringing to Mrs. Abigail Hull the news of her husband's death, and a companion letter of consolation from her brother, Captain Ward, were hidden away in the secret compartment of Wyllys Eliot's desk. For Abigail, widowed at the age of 28, later married Wyllys Eliot and surely must have placed these cherished letters here with her own hands. After the death of Wyllys Eliot in 1777 she married a third husband, Samuel Parmelee, and doubtless forgot the letters as the sorrow they commemorated became dim with the passing years.

The two letters of 1759 were brought from Ticonderoga by the same messenger. After the fashion of that time the sheet of paper was folded skillfully and became its own envelope. The address on the outside which left no doubt of the news within, follows:

"Mrs. Abigail Hull at Guilford, widow of Capt. Giles Hull, late deceased at Ticonderoga, these with care and speed by Mr. Thompson from the army".

The body of the letter, edited to conform with modern spelling, but with a few portions missing, reads as follows:

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Camp At Ticonderoga, Aug. ye 16th, 1759.

For Mrs. Abigail Hull. After my tender regards, these lines may inform you that it is with the greatest reluctance and dread of heart to me to write to you in this manner. But since it is the will of God who will do right and not do any of his creatures the least injury and I hope you will be enabled to receive this afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence as coming from God who perfectly knoweth all things that are best for his creatures and hath a sovereign right to dispose of his creatures as seemeth right to him, I earnestly pray that God would sanctify his holy hand to you for your spiritual good.

A Wednesday ye 3rd. I was with Capt. Hull at the landing at Lake George. Came from there at night and Capt. Hull was taken poorly at night, proved to be the "meazels" but walked about till ye 4th day, Tuesday ye 7th, proved a rainy day. I mounted guard at night. Rained very hard, proved a tempest of thunder and lightning. The wind shifted about 3 in the morning. Ye wind blew very hard and cold and an extraordinary storm followed till past 8 in the morning.

Capt. Hull's "meazels" came out some but upon the change of weather they returned in. Ye ninth day, Mr. Beckwith made a prayer with him. I found him at first laboring under much concern of mind, being sensible he should not live many days. On Saturday he remained very sick but was more easy in his mind and remained rational and had his reason to the end. Sometimes when awaking out of sleep he was something shattered for a few minutes. At night rested something easy. Capt. Ward came to see him several times. Continued very sick until the 14th day, not with all the pains that could be taken by the doctor and then his disorder could not be removed. He was as well taken care of in life and greatly lamented at his death. Capt. Hull departed this life ye 14th. at half after 5 in the afternoon. We provided a coffin and he was decently buried ye 15th. day half after 5 in the afternoon. He gave very satisfying witness of his good estate. He (charged) Capt. Ward to take care of his (family) It is a



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heavy stroke to me and I earnestly hope therein may have a sanctified improvement thereof to (all). No more at present but I remain your well wisher and humble servant,

Cornelius Hull.

The letter by which the brother, Captain Ward, essayed to comfort his widowed sister, reads thus:

Ticonderoga, Aug. 16, 1759.

Dear Sister:

Before the opening and reading of this, as well perhaps as when you do, thy heart is full and thy eyes brimming with grief on the same account as mine have done before you and do now. But tears also are trifling things, they rather increase than alleviate our sorrows. Then dry them up, my sister, tho thou art disconsolate and afflicted. I think I can tell thee where there are cordials and comfort for you. Thou hast read the Scriptures—I know thou hast—the promises the Evangelist, the one predicting of that shall make the widow's heart sing for joy, the other telling thee of faith that he died so. Then turn thy heart, thy affections, from him where they have been lately set, and perhaps you think with reason, for kindly and friendly offices done to thee and thy infant, but all that thou ever found in him or any other mortal that was lovely was but small streams that run from that Being as a fountain where I would have thy heart center. The one for whom thou art now sorrowing was (provident) and that with intention of providing comfort for this life for you and yours. But the one on whom I would have you lean at this time was really the provident friend. He feeds the ravens of the valley and will he not much more the children of the widow who hopes in his mercy and trusts in his promises.

How weak was the one for whom you are now sighing. Life was not his when he would for he said calmly, I can neither live nor die. But the one where I'd have thy soul poured out has life and death in his hands, and life he offers. Did you

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ever see the one for whom you are in a flood of tears, wisely and with good will telling a pleasant and dutiful child, "ask for bread and those things you need and I will give you." Then hear the one, I advise you to, say "If you that are parents know how to give good gifts to your children, much more will my Father give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him." The goodness and tenderness in the parents is derived goodness from the Being I advise you to. See the word, he does not say "If one that I own as a child asks for those things that they need." but to them. See the promise. "Much more will my Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask." Would not this be a comfort and consolation to you in your or any other contemplations. I have not time to say only this. You have a kind father and mother and sisters, have you experienced them as well as I. And if I ever return I hope you will find me a brother really.

Andrew Ward, Jr.

The tragedy of Abigail's early widowhood must have been as sharp and real as any sorrow of this latest generation. It is pleasant to know that she presently was comforted and that she later filled an important place as a wife and mother in the Guilford of her time. She was the mother of nine Eliot children among whom were Abigail, the elder Mrs. Gregory, and Ruth, wife of Priest Baldwin, names not unfamiliar in Guilford a half-century ago.

## *Two Collins Houses*

**I**N early years Union Street bore the name of Back Lane. The old house there, long known as the Milo Cook house, now owned by R. O. Abbott, was built about 1769 as the home of Darius Collins, a son of Oliver Collins whose farm was on the old Moose Hill-North Branford road, near West Pond. He was a grandson of John Collins of the Philo Bishop house and a great grandson of John Collins and Mary Kingsnorth who had inherited the Comfort Starr house in 1686.

Darius Collins married Hannah Spencer in 1762. She was a daughter of Stephen Spencer and Obedience Bradley, the latter a daughter of Abraham Bradley at the corner of State and Union Streets. Hannah Collins had inherited from her father, Stephen Spencer, land in Back Lane (probably Abraham Bradley's formerly) and on January 6, 1769, Obadiah and Mindwell Spencer deeded a half-acre on the west of it to their brother-in-law, Darius Collins. So Darius and Hannah built their house.

Their daughter, Hannah, inherited the homestead "during time Hannah remains unmarried", which was her lifetime. Her will of December 6, 1847, left it to her relatives, from whom Samuel C. Johnson purchased it in 1849. He sold it in 1867 to Sarah A. Sweet of Milford. James and Sarah Sweet sold it to John Benton in 1872 and John Benton to Lucy J. Cooke, wife of Milo Cooke, on January 6, 1876. Mrs. Cooke died in 1908, in which year William Fritz bought the place, selling to Miss Eleanor Owens in 1927. She sold the property to Mr. Abbott shortly before her death in 1937.

Meantime Hannah Collins's brother, Friend Collins, married Philena Norton in 1785. In 1787 Darius Collins bought

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land in State Street, a portion of the home lot of Colonel Andrew Ward, from the heirs. Colonel Ward's house was near the present site of Dr. F. DeWitt Smith's and his home lot extended north to Union Street, Broad Street, now intervening, having been extended to Graves Avenue a century later. A house was built in 1787 as the home of Friend Collins, who was the owner in 1796 when he and his neighbor on the north, John Davis, (Mrs. Bristol's place) were agreeing on a boundary line.

The title to the State Street house passed through several names until 1851 when John Jackson bought it. He placed on the south side of the house an old structure as an addition in which he kept a meat market, as did Edmund S. Jillson, who owned it from 1866 to 1869, when he sold to Henry N. Chamberlain. In 1890 John S. Norton bought the place and his daughter, Mrs. Lillian Jillson, is the present owner. Her son, Harry W. Parmelee, moved the wing mentioned above to Mulberry Point and converted it into a cottage.

A daughter of Friend Collins, Mary Ann, born 1787, married Leonard Chamberlain and for them was built the house next south, at the corner of State and Broad Streets.

### *The Lees Of Crooked Lane*

A FEARLESS, brave woman of the Revolution was Agnes Dickinson Lee. Small wonder that her name is revered in a score of Guilford homes and in other and unnumbered homes from Atlantic to Pacific.

Samuel Lee, Jr., was the third of that name in succession. He was the son of Samuel and Ruth Morse Lee and was born October 12, 1742, in a house standing "one mile from Guilford Green on the old Durham road".

Until he was 20 years of age, Samuel Lee, Jr., led a care-free life, his favorite pursuits being hunting and fishing. On November 7, 1764, when 22 years of age, Samuel Lee, Jr., married Agnes, the daughter of Azariah Dickinson of Haddam, and they began their married life in the house at the corner of State and North Streets.

The early years of the Lees's married life were eventful ones in the nation's history. The following March (1765) the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act. For a decade British misrule continued to pile up American grievances until the inevitable result came, war in 1775.

Before the battle of Lexington three daughters had been born to the Lee home: Rebecca, March 17, 1766; Lucy, July 3, 1770; Ruth, August 13, 1773. Another member of the family was Samuel Lee's brother, Levi Lee, a famous fifer of his time.

During these eventful years before the Revolution, Guilford was far from idle. When the alarm of Lexington came, the town sent forty-three men at once to the front. Later that year another company of Guilford men was in service along the Lakes George and Champlain. In 1776 a company of Guilford men helped garrison Ticonderoga.



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Meantime there was danger of attack on the home shore front and on July 31, 1776, Guilford voted in town meeting "that the Selectmen are desired to finish the Carriages which are begun for the Cannon in this place and fit them for Service." Prominent among those active in home defense appears the name of Samuel Lee, Jr. When, in 1776, Long Island fell into British hands and Long Island patriots desired to take refuge in Connecticut, Samuel Lee, Jr., was a member of a committee of five which chartered the sloop "Polly" to furnish transportation. Five times did the "Polly" cross the Sound, bringing to Guilford Long Island refugees with their families, household goods and domestic animals. In 1777 the town voted to set up salt works and Samuel Lee, Jr., was one of a committee of three to purchase kettles for the enterprise which, however, soon proved unsuccessful.

During the year 1780 the Connecticut coast was patrolled by three sets of whaleboats, one from Stonington to Guilford; one from Guilford to Housatonic; a third thence to New York. On May 1 of that year Samuel Lee, Jr., enlisted a company of twenty-nine men to act as a coast guard, he being lieutenant in command and his brother, Levi Lee, sergeant.

The greater part of Guilford townsmen were patriots, the Tories being a small but troublesome minority. Lieutenant Lee's home became the center of patriotic operations in Guilford. There lead was brought, melted into bullets and stored, as well as powder, for the hour of need. All about the house, especially in the west bedroom, were hidden confiscated articles, buttons, strings of which hung on the wall behind the four-post bedstead, laces, silks and thread. Near the house, beneath a willow tree by the brook, stood the alarm gun, a cannon from the Canadian wars which had been assigned to Guilford in earlier years. This gun was to be fired as an alarm in case of British attack along shore.

When, in 1781, the British did land at Leete's Island and it was high time to arouse the countryside, there was not a man left in Crooked Lane (State Street) to fire the signal gun.



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Nevertheless the gun was fired, for Agnes Dickinson Lee, to quote her own words which have come down through five generations, "went out and blazed away." So the British were repulsed.

Greater occasion was there for womanly courage than the discharging of a cannon. Full as was the house of valuables, Lieutenant Lee would scarcely have passed from sight down Crooked Lane before the Tories would be raiding his house. At such times, clever Agnes Dickinson Lee would swing the great kettle onto the crane of the kitchen fireplace, fill it with lace, thread, buttons and silk, clap on the cover and the raiding Tories would never dream that it held anything but soup.

Lieutenant Lee was out of town, perhaps in Hartford, attending General Court. He had left his home in care of his brother, Levi Lee, with a neighbor, Jared Bishop, to come in nights in case of a Tory raid. One evening, while Levi was absent for a brief while, there came a knock at the front door. Agnes Dickinson Lee, listening inside, heard voices whispering on the doorstep and knew that the Tories had come.

"Who's there?" she asked.

"A friend." was the reply.

"Yes, friends to King George and the traitors," replied the spirited woman and she would not admit them.

The Tories proceeded to batter down the door. Agnes Dickinson Lee pushed into the bedroom her little daughters, Rececca, Lucy and Ruth, whose ages then were 13, 9 and 6 years, and locked the door. As the Tories forced their way into the house she held high her lighted candle that she might recognize her unwelcome visitors. Three times the Tories blew out the candle and three times she relighted it from the coals on the hearth. The Tories advanced toward the bedroom door, but the brave woman placed herself before it, exclaiming that her children were in there and that none should enter save over her dead body. Awed by her indomitable spirit, the men paused. At this moment Levi Lee returned.

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"Shoot, Levi," she exclaimed, handing him a gun. "You will not harm us."

Levi fired and in the darkness he might have been a dozen men. The Tories fled, leaving behind a bullet in the door casing. Across North Street they went, Levi sending bullets after them as fast as Agnes could load. Most likely they thought the entire Coast Guard was defending the house. Next morning the snow where they had passed was red with blood and a doctor was called to North Guilford to attend a man with a bullet in his elbow.

Nor was the house free from attack when Lieutenant Lee was at home. He answered a rap at his back door one evening only to be struck at with a cutlass. So quickly did he close the door that the weapon struck the door panel, leaving a gash which remained to be seen there by his great grandchildren.

Agnes Dickinson Lee had courage in face of graver danger than a Tory invasion. It has been said that ammunition was kept in the house in quantities. One summer day, when the heat had caused the attic windows to be left open, a powder keg, nearly full and uncovered, stood just inside the west window. The barn caught fire, presumably from lightning, and showers of sparks were being carried toward the open window inside of which the open powder keg stood. There was no one there but Agnes Lee to save the house. Without a moment's hesitation she rushed up to the attic, past the powder and closed the window, shutting out the dangerous sparks. She afterward remarked that she never expected to come down those stairs alive.

The Tories carried on illicit traffic with the British ships, which annoyed patriotic Guilford. On December 25, 1781, the town voted to detect, suppress and stop the traffic. The special charge of this movement fell upon Lieutenant Lee. It was the practice of the Tories to load boats with provisions, slip down East or West River after nightfall and secretly supply the British ships with food, taking in return contraband goods which they carried ashore and concealed.

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One night Lieutenant Lee was informed that a whale boat was returning up West River from one of these secret trips. Gathering a few men Lieutenant Lee appeared on the bank of the river and ordered the boat to come ashore.

A refusal came back in the voice of a neighbor of Lee. With an oath, Lieutenant Lee repeated the command. Now swearing was forbidden by the General Assembly, of which body Lieutenant Lee was a member.

"I shall report you for swearing, Lieutenant Lee," observed the man in the whale boat in his smooth, gracious way but making no move to turn shoreward.

"Come ashore!" thundered Lieutenant Lee with a second oath. "Come ashore, or I'll put a bullet through you."

The boat's prow grazed the river bank without more ado. The cargo was confiscated and stored in the Lee house and the boat was placed outside in the yard, a chain from it running through the cellar window and being fastened in the cellar.

Some years later, when the oldest daughter, Rebecca, was married to Timothy Seward, her wedding gown was made of silk, a piece taken from among the confiscated goods. Friends and neighbors made merry at the wedding. When the bride and bridegroom were ready to start for their new home, the saddled horse was brought to the door. Timothy Seward sprang into the saddle and his bride was about to mount to the pillion behind him when she discovered that her wedding gown was in tatters. It had been ruined by ruthless scissors, snipping here and there, as opportunity came, in the hand of some Tory guest.

The wedding party proceeded on horseback to the Seward home and at East Creek found ropes stretched across the road to trip the horses—another bit of Tory pleasantry.

Near the close of the Revolutionary War, Lieutenant Lee received his commission as captain, signed by Governor Jonathan Trumbull. This commission was carefully preserved by his great grandson, Captain Charles Griswold of Guilford. Another heirloom was Captain Lee's porcelain snuff box which

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descended to his great granddaughter, Miss Annette Fowler, of Guilford, and by her was given to her niece, Miss Anna Lee Fowler of Chicago, a great, great granddaughter of Captain Lee.

When the Marquis de Lafayette visited Guilford and tasted his first dish of succotash, Captain Lee was associated with General Ward in entertaining the distinguished visitor. Captain Lee represented his town in the General Assembly many times, his last term of office being in 1800. He is described as a remarkable man, and a typical Puritan, much given to discussing Biblical doctrine. He died May 31, 1819, at the age of seventy-seven years.

The three daughters of Captain Lee and his wife married and settled not far from their parents. Rebecca, the oldest, married Timothy Seward and went to live at East Creek in a house now gone, beyond the Carter homestead. Lucy married Joel Griswold, Sr., and Ruth married Abner Benton. They lived in houses standing side by side, built on the Lee home lot. Descendants of Samuel Lee long owned the Joel Griswold house and the Henry B. Griswold house, the latter built for Captain Samuel Lee himself.

The three sisters lived to advanced ages, leaving many descendants. Ruth Benton died March 9, 1854, aged 81. The same month, March 24, 1854, Lucy Griswold died at the age of 84. Five years later, December 6, 1859, Rebecca Seward died at the age of 93.

Agnes Dickinson Lee, herself, survived her husband for about ten years, during which she made her home with her daughter, Lucy Griswold. She died about 1830. Her great grandson, the late Henry B. Griswold, remembered her well. He described her as a little woman, a white kerchief about her throat, knitting as she sat erect in her straight-back chair—a woman of dignity and charm and a great grandmother who told delightful stories.

### *Fourth Church Parsonage*

THE pastorate of the Rev. Daniel Brewer with the Fourth Congregational Church, which stood approximately on the site of Nelson H. Griswold's store, is outlined in the story of "Thomas Jordan's Home Lot". This story is about the parsonage built for this pastor by the Fourth Society.

John Norton, the fourth of that name, in 1772, sold to the Fourth Society 53 rods of land off the north side of his home lot in Petticoat Lane which his great grandfather had purchased from Robert Kitchell in 1666. The same day he sold to the Rev. Daniel Brewer, himself, a lot in the rear of the one purchased by the Fourth Society.

The Fourth Church committee set about building a parsonage on the newly-acquired home lot. The dwelling yet stands, being now the home of Samuel Spencer in Fair Street.

The Rev. Daniel Brewer did not long occupy the parsonage of 1772, which the church had voted in 1771 to build "of any model." He had become a Sandemanian in belief and in 1775 he was dismissed. The society instructed the committee to "settle with Mr. Brewer the best way they can." The next year, 1776, it was voted to rent the house originally built for Mr. Brewer. In 1792 the Fourth Society sold the parsonage, built twenty years before, with one-half acre of land, to Joel Fowler for 100 pounds.

In the same year, 1776, the Rev. Mr. Brewer bought for himself the homestead of Nathaniel Bishop, 2nd, at the north side of the Town Square and next west of the sanctuary from the pulpit of which he had lately been dismissed.

Another parcel of the Norton home lot was sold in 1799 by Elijah Norton, his brother-in-law and sister, John and Eliza-



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beth Hodgkin, to Ruth and Nathan Chittenden, their aunt and uncle. This was 1 acre, 99 rods, next south of Joel Fowler, who now owned the former parsonage. The Chittendens, in 1807, sold the land to Agar Wildman, no house thereon. A deed of 1808, conveying a piece of land from Agar Wildman to Joel Fowler, reveals Agar Wildman's homestead. There is reason to conclude that Agar Wildman built the house which was later the home of the late Christopher Spencer. The house was drawn across the street in recent years to make room for the addition to the plant of I. S. Spencer's Sons, Inc.

The Fourth Church parsonage was bought by Ebenezer Bartlett, who moved up from Sachem's Head. He died in 1870, his wife in 1876. A few years later George B. Spencer, father of Samuel Spencer, bought the house and made his home there, as his son does now.



### *Caldwell House*

THE Caldwell house, corner Boston Street and Lovers' Lane, now owned by H. Rossiter Snyder, was the home of Charles Caldwell, grandfather of Miss Clarissa Caldwell. He bought the home lot of Benjamin Everest March 3, 1726, six acres with messuage or tenement, indicating an earlier house on the lot. Extensive alterations are said to have been made to the present house in 1815 when two chimneys replaced the old stone stack in the center and made possible the long central hallway.

Miss Clarissa Caldwell, the last of the name to occupy the ancestral home, was born a subject of King George, her natal day having been January 18, 1776. She died April 8, 1876, at the extreme age of 99 years, 9 months and 9 days. Her ambition to attain a century was not realized.

Miss Caldwell was a remarkable woman, both in mental and manual capability. A gentlewoman in the best sense of the word, she was also a business woman. A millinery establishment was her specialty and more than one young woman, who came from afar to learn the trade of a milliner with Miss Caldwell, remained in Guilford for life, marrying and settling down here.

A devout member of the Episcopal Church, Miss Caldwell was a close friend of the mother of the late Right Rev. John Williams, Bishop of Connecticut. Whenever Bishop Williams visited the parish he failed not to call upon his mother's friend. The wit and repartee of the conversation between the hostess and her distinguished guest sparkle yet, undimmed by time.

A brother, Captain John Caldwell, who died in 1843, was one of the numerous seafaring men of that period before the railroad had ended the maritime industries of Guilford.

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The house was partially ruined by fire in June, 1919, when later owners, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur B. Bradley, lost their lives. The place was purchased from John E. Shelley of Chicago, brother of the late Mrs. Jennie Shelley Bradley, by Mr. Snyder in October, 1923. He is a son of the Rev. Henry Snyder of Boston, who was a close friend of the late Deacon John Rossiter of Boston Street, and gave to his son the name of his friend. The Rev. Mr. Snyder, Deacon John Rossiter and the Rev. Martin Lovering were members of the class of 1881, Yale University, and were so closely allied as friends that they were known as "The Triumvirate." Mr. Snyder is a descendant of the early settler, Stephen Bradley.





CAPTAIN SAMUEL LEE'S HOUSE IN CROOKED LANE



CALDWELL HOUSE, CORNER LOVERS' LANE





## *Great Guns Of Guilford*

NEAR the Henry Whitfield House, and listed as one of the exhibits of the Henry Whitfield State Historical Museum, stands an ancient cannon. Its foundation is an ancient gravestone, one of those removed from Guilford Green in the first half of the nineteenth century, the inscription on which was hidden beneath a coat of stucco.

This gun was a ship's cannon of the War of 1812. It was found on a New York dock and brought to Guilford by a coasting vessel running between Guilford and New York in the 1830's. Guilford Democrats appropriated the gun and with it celebrated Democratic victories when occasion arose.

In its old age the gun was cared for by Milo Cook at his home in Union Street. He sheltered it, kept it painted and gave it an honored place in the parade on Fair Day. When Mr. Cook sold his homestead and left Guilford, he transferred the guardianship of the ancient piece of artillery to the Henry Whitfield House.

There should be a companion for this ancient gun to stand beside it on the historic grounds of the Henry Whitfield House. Once, but not now, Guilford owned another field piece. This gun had its place in Guilford's defense of its coast during Revolutionary years and even before then had seen service in distant lands.

It is tradition that this earlier gun was landed in Guilford by a British ship in 1755, along with a handful of Acadian peasants who had been torn from their homes in Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, and landed by the victorious British in their colonial town of Guilford.

It is history (Trumbull's) that in June, 1755, Colonel Monckton's expedition against Nova Scotia had taken the

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French fort, Bausejoir, and with it twenty-six pieces of mounted cannon. The Acadians, who had been assisting the French, were disarmed to the number of 15,000 men and pretty generally removed from the country. Great numbers of them were brought to New England. It was the tragedy of this thing that caused Longfellow to write "Evangeline".

A little group of these Acadians was set ashore in Guilford and tradition has it that the great gun was landed here at the same time. For twenty years the curtain of silence hides this field piece. The next glimpse of it is obtained during the Revolutionary years. The hand, writing on the wall, had moved on. War, formerly between France and England, now was between England and her colonies, with France aiding the latter. So the gun which the British had taken from the French and themselves brought to Guilford was trained against them by that same Guilford.

In June, 1777, is recorded that notice of any landing of the British should be given by the firing of two great guns in the old town, answered by one at East Guilford (Madison) and the ringing of the bell. In that same month it is stated that the State ordered the furnace at Salisbury to deliver to the selectmen of Guilford "100 round 4-pound shot with grape-shot in proportion" and the owners of the powder mill at New Haven to deliver 150 pounds of cannon powder. A four-pound shot, unearthed by the late John Starr in his dooryard (the Captain Lee House, State Street), is doubtless one of the above shipment. It is now on exhibition in the Whitfield Museum.

The alarm gun stood under a willow tree beside the brook west of the house of Captain Samuel Lee. The house, later the home of John Starr, is owned now by Edgar Wilcox. When the British did land on the coast and it was time to fire the gun to arouse the back districts, not a man remained in Crooked Lane. They had forgotten to fire the alarm in their haste to meet the enemy. It was then that intrepid Agnes Lee fired the gun.

The next time the Revolutionary gun came to sight it was serving as a fender at the southeast corner of Guilford Green.

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About 1855 there arose a political party calling itself the "Know Nothing" party, with which many of the old-line Whigs united. It was, in a way, a secret organization and did not long survive. However, the party did elect a Governor of Connecticut, William T. Minor, 1855-7, and Guilford young men turned out one night to celebrate the victory. They dug up the ancient cannon, conveyed it to the post office, a small building on the east side of the Green, now moved back of the Town Hall, and planted it, muzzle down, in front of the building.

Postmaster Franklin C. Phelps was the most prominent Democrat in the town and an ardent political fighter, but he took the joke in a sportsman-like spirit and next day paid a man a dollar to dig up the gun and plant it muzzle-up so that it might serve as a horse post in front of the post office.

This did not suit so well the young men of the "Know Nothing" party. In the small hours of the next night they turned out again, took up the old gun and mounted it on cart wheels. They reamed out the mud and rust which filled the gun and arranged to fire a "Know Nothing" salute on the Green.

"Charley" Miller kept a general store at West Side, the store which was last conducted by Daniel Sheehan and stood at the corner of York and River Streets. The young men sent there for every bit of powder in stock, which proved enough to fire the gun a few times.

Democratic headquarters at that time were in the store of Horatio Johnson, a building in Water Street later used by A. G. Sommer as a barber shop. A party of Democrats, realizing that the "Know Nothings" were celebrating up on the Green, sallied forth to stop the celebration. A war-like member of the "Know-Nothing" group drew a clasp knife from his pocket and set chase to a prominent Democrat, pursuing him so fiercely that it was afterwards said checkers could have been played on the Democratic coat-tails. The old gun was spiked and that closed the incident of that night.

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Next day the "Know-Nothings" took the gun up to the blacksmith shop of Morris Leete, grandfather of Henry W. Leete, in York Street. They trumped the spiking trick by reaming out another vent hole. They sent to New Haven for a full supply of powder, but here their plans were temporarily thwarted for the New London Railroad refused to transport the ammunition. Then came to the rescue Captain "Dick" Fowler, the veteran stage coach driver, who brought the powder, 100 rounds, from New Haven for "the boys".

That night the "Know-Nothing" celebration was on. Led by a drum corps, with flags waving and drums beating, staid town fathers marched in procession around the Green while the young men dragged the ancient cannon, afterward firing it to their hearts' content.

After that night there was always the need of preventing the precious field-piece from falling into the hands of "the enemy". Joel Griswold, then selectman, gave permission to hide the cannon in the dim recesses of his house cellar in State Street. The women of the household were not taken into confidence, and great was the consternation of a daughter when she stumbled over the thing while down cellar to get vegetables for dinner.

Finally the hiding place of the gun was located by the Democrats and it was decided that the gun must be moved. So one dark night the gun was carried up the street to the basement of the "Rock House". Again the gun was traced and again it was moved. This happened repeatedly. Reuben Fowler's barn and Jonathan Bishop's hay mow were hiding places, among others, before the tide of enthusiasm ebbed.

The last recorded public appearance of the old gun was in 1858, a century after its capture from the French in Nova Scotia. Cyrus Field had laid the Atlantic Cable. The event must be celebrated for Cyrus Field was descended from an early East Guilford or Madison family. A public demonstration followed the sending of the first message of August 5, 1858. It was held on Guilford Green. Church bells rang

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merrily during the day. At sunset fifty rounds of powder were fired and the church bells pealed again. Hundreds of people assembled and bonfires burned while the Guilford Brass Band lent its music to the occasion. Addresses were made by Hon. Ralph D. Smith, the Rev. R. Manning Chipman, Hon. Judge Beebe of New York and Joseph R. Hawley of Hartford. Fireworks and the ascension of a balloon closed the program.

But the occasion was marred by an untoward event. The old gun had been placed on the northern part of the Green and a crowd assembled there. George Durgin and George Stevens were acting as gunners. Once and again the gun was fired. The muzzle was pointing southward in the direction of the crowd. Standing in front of it George Stevens was ramming home a charge. There came a premature explosion. The gunner was cruelly burned about the chest and arms. The ramrod was shot across the space toward the spectators and killed Selden Munger's dog, with which his little daughter had been playing a moment before. It was a narrow escape for many in the crowd. The gunner, George Stevens, was disabled for some time and a purse was made up for him.

That incident closed the active career of the old cannon. It was pronounced unsafe and was consigned to oblivion in the shed of the town mill. For several years it lay there, then somehow drifted down to Warren Lowe's livery stable in Water Street, lying there neglected and unrecognized.

There is no record of the final disposition of the old gun. It is whispered that the selectmen, in a thrifty moment, sometime in the 1870's, sold the historic gun, the ancient war cannon, to the Malleable Iron Works in Branford as scrap iron. Thus ends the story of a gun which had its part in Guilford history for 120 years.



*Benton-Beecher House*

UNTIL 1829 the Benton-Beecher house was standing at the head of Guilford Green. Then it was moved to the foot of Whitfield Street, about a mile distant, and the present First Congregational Church was erected upon the site.

The house was built about 1778 by Caleb Benton, son of Ebenezer and Abigail Benton who had lived in an earlier house on the same site. They willed the homestead to a son, Caleb, reserving to a daughter, Rebecca, the right to a home there. When the new house was built Caleb, following his father's example, deeded to his sister, Rebecca, January 28, 1779, the lower west room in the upright part of the house, which would be the east front room as the house now stands. Dying in 1794, twelve years later than her brother, Rebecca Benton willed her property to her brother's son, Caleb Benton, Jr.

Now the parents, Ebenezer and Abigail Benton, in 1738, had given to another son, Ebenezer Benton, Jr., land in North Guilford, upon which he had built a home. A son, Lot Benton, had succeeded to the title and lived in North Guilford until 1794. He then purchased his grandfather's homestead at the north end of Guilford Green from his cousin, Caleb Benton, Jr., and moved down town.

Lot Benton and his wife, who was Catherine Lyman of Middlefield, had no children of their own but had adopted an infant nephew of Mrs. Benton, Lyman Beecher. The child was a son of David Beecher of New Haven and his wife, who was Esther Lyman of Middlefield and who died of consumption shortly after the birth of her son, Lyman.

It was not strange that Lyman Beecher was a frail child. It is stated by good authority that only the invigorating air of



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the hill country of North Guilford carried him through childhood. But he survived to a ripe old age. Indeed his body outlasted a splendid mind.

When Lot Benton changed his residence to the center of the town in 1794, his foster son was a student in Yale College, from which he was graduated in 1797. Uncle Lot had tried his best to train Lyman Beecher in farming but had given up the task in despair and had sent him to college as a last resort. This was the underlying reason for his retiring from the North Guilford farm.

It was, then, to this house in Guilford that Lyman Beecher came from Yale to spend his vacations. He brought with him a chum, Ben Baldwin, who was calling on Betsey Chittenden at the home of her grandfather, General Andrew Ward in Nut Plains, and who took young Beecher with him. It was thus that Lyman Beecher met Roxana Foote.

Roxana Foote was the second of ten children of Eli Foote and his wife, Roxana Ward, who had been orphaned by the sudden death of Eli Foote while in the South on a business trip. The greathearted grandfather, General Andrew Ward, had taken to his Nut Plains home his widowed daughter and her ten children and there brought them up as his own.

It was a case of love at first sight with Lyman Beecher and Roxana Foote. In his own language he saw that she was "of uncommon ability". But alas! Between the lovers there was a great gulf fixed. She was an Episcopalian, he a Congregationalist.

Long and earnestly did Roxana Foote ponder upon the situation. Then love and common sense triumphed and she took the courageous step, becoming the bride of the young Congregational minister.

The wedding took place on Saturday, September 18, 1799, at the Ward homestead in Nut Plains. The Rev. Lyman Beecher's first pastorate was at East Hampton, Long Island. Thither went the young preacher and his bride, Uncle Lot Benton hiring a sloop to take them across Long Island Sound.

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The years passed on, Uncle Lot died, as had his good wife, Aunt Benton, leaving by his will his homestead in Guilford and land worth \$2,000 to Dr. Lyman Beecher.

Meantime the Beechers had lived for ten years at East Hampton, conducting a select school for young ladies by which was eked out the slender salary of the minister. Then the heavy salt air began to tell upon the minister's none-too-rugged frame and the family removed to the hills of Litchfield, Conn.

There, in 1816, Roxana Foote Beecher died, leaving eight children, another having died. It was her dying prayer that her five sons all might become ministers of the Gospel, and that wish was fulfilled. Indeed all of the eight brothers and sisters were of unusual mentality, although the fame of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Ward Beecher exceeded that of the others.

Dr. Beecher married a second wife in 1817, Miss Harriet Porter of Portland, Maine, and they were the parents of Isabella Beecher Hooker. Being again bereaved in 1835, Dr. Beecher married in 1836 a third wife, Widow Lydia Jackson of Boston. In 1826 he became pastor of the Hanover Church in Boston; in 1832, president of the Lane Theological Seminary near Cincinnati, Ohio, where he remained for nineteen years, in the early part of the period preaching also in the Second Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. His last years were spent in his own house on Brooklyn Heights, N. Y., where he died January 10, 1863, in the 88th year of his age. He was buried in Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, his native city.

During the years in East Hampton and in Litchfield, Dr. Beecher doubtless came home to Guilford as often as the long, tedious journey could be managed. But in 1828, when he was living in Boston and negotiations were opened with him to sell the Lot Benton house in Guilford as the site of a new meeting house to replace the old "Temple" on the Green, Dr. Beecher was not averse to selling. The future was opening out before him and the old house in Guilford could never be his home.

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There exists a little home-made note-book, made of brown paper bound with string, which is kept with the records of the First Congregational Church and which contains the notes of the building committee of that time. This committee was appointed February 18, 1828, and was made up of Nathaniel Griffing, William Todd, Daniel Loper, George Landon, Amos Seward. One entry in the book reads, "Nothing heard yet from Dr. Beecher".

The building committee was authorized, January 19, 1829, "to go on and make the contract for building a new meeting house, and that they procure the Lot Benton place, so-called, to set it on, provided they can purchase it on such terms as they think are reasonable".

The committee could and did. The corner stone of the new edifice was laid June 5, 1829. In the present cellar of the church the well yet remains that was dug and used by the early Bentons. The records are silent concerning the disposition of the dwelling house that Caleb Benton had built but tradition takes up the tale. A new chapter now opens in the story of the house.

A man in Guilford, Rossiter Parmelee, bought of William Eliot, on May 18, 1829, 150 rods of land lying in the Great Plain, near Sluice Creek. He, on the same day, mortgaged the land, which held no building, to Mercy Parmelee for \$200.00.

Did the building committee give the house to Rossiter Parmelee if he would take it away? And did Rossiter Parmelee finance the moving project with the proceeds of the mortgage?

At any rate tradition states that seventy yoke of oxen were required to move the mansion. It was a large undertaking for the great chimney of solid stone was moved also, after being cut off at the base and decapitated in the attic, facts proved during later repairs to the house. There were no overhead wires and no wayside trees to obstruct progress, and no railroad tracks to be crossed, in those early days. But tradition states that the moving nearly came to grief opposite the Old Stone House, probably in the mud and mire of the early highway on

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a day in late May, and it was thought for a time that the house could go no further. However it was finally landed on the foundations prepared for it.

The late Miss Annette A. Fowler used to relate a family incident in connection with the moving of this house. Her parents were living in it temporarily, while their own house on the west side of the Green was being built. When word came that the house was to be moved that day, her mother was engaged in the arduous task of dipping candles. She could not leave the task and, while others moved out the household furnishings and the dwelling began its strange journey, she continued dipping candles until the procession had reached the south end of the Green.

In its new location beside the sea the old house entered upon new times. Probably Rossiter Parmelee kept a tavern there, for the packets and coasting vessels, which made a maritime place of Guilford, carried passengers as well as merchandise. In 1840 Rossiter Parmelee was licensed to sell spirituous liquors.

Rossiter Parmelee was born in Guilford in 1783, a son of Nathaniel Parmelee and his wife, Mercy Chittenden. He married Clarissa, daughter of Captain Jasper Griffing, one of the sea captains of that period who adventured to the West Indies. In 1844, he sold the homestead to David H. Smith of Hartford.

At this period the Guilford coast was a favorite shore resort with Hartford people and David Smith immediately set about enlarging the house and adapting it for a seashore hotel.

When built the house was of the second period design, salt-box shape, with a two-story front and a roof sloping in the rear to one-story height. David Smith had the rear roof lifted to make it two stories high, and built a three-story wing on the east end, with a two-story portico across the front. The first floor of the new part contained dining room and sitting room. The second floor was cut up into tiny bedrooms with transoms above the doors opening into the corridors. The third floor contained a ballroom with windows on three sides. All

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about this great room ran a narrow wooden bench against the wall. From the window there was a wonderful view of Long Island Sound and, as the balls of a century ago began at six o'clock, even on a June evening, the dancers had a chance to enjoy some glorious sunset views while they danced.

The regime of Manager Smith was short, coming to a tragic end eleven years after he bought the house. He owned a schooner, "Emperor", which engaged in the coasting trade. Being himself no navigator he employed Lyman Chapman of Madison as captain. The crew consisted of a white man named Brown, and a Negro of forgotten name.

On March 9, 1855, against the protest of Captain Lyman Chapman, the "Emperor" started on a trip to New York to carry a cargo of farm produce. David Smith and the crew accompanied the captain. A gale of wind was blowing and it was a bad time to start. The craft reached the Thimble Islands but could not make further headway westward so the captain headed eastward for Plum Gut hoping to pass through in safety and find shelter under the Long Island shore. Instead the schooner went on the rocks of Rocky Point, near Orient, on the north shore of Long Island. All on board were lost except the colored boy.

As a sequel to this adventure, John H. Bartlett, administrator of the estate of David H. Smith, on November 27, 1855, sold the homestead to William Mallory of Norwalk. He, on April 30, 1858, sold to Elizabeth Bullard, a member of the family of her brother, Joel Bullard of Guilford.

Reserving life use to himself, Joel Bullard deeded the place to his daughter, Mary, wife of William Church, a returned soldier, on June 7, 1873. Mary Church later married Captain Jerry Rackett from East Marion, Long Island, and for almost forty years it was the Rackett place.

Captain and Mrs. Jerry Rackett used but a few rooms in the great house, as they lived simply. Captain Rackett was a genial kindly man, who was beloved by all. He obtained his living by oystering in the river near the house. There were no



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children, so that all the affection of Mrs. Rackett's nature was centered upon her husband and she guarded and protected him with all the intensity of a strong temperament.

Despite all her care, there was a mis-step and a fall one day, and after that Captain Jerry was an invalid. He had been a lifelong member of the Masonic Lodge of Greenport, L. I., and the lodge provided for him until he died. Mrs. Rackett, widowed, lived alone in the house for a time, then took in tenants. Though not in good health, she was yet able to be about and, desiring a change in surroundings, went to the home for the aged people where her husband had been, near Hartford.

On July 3, 1913, Mrs. Rackett telephoned friends in Guilford that she wished to come home the following day, July 4. But on the morning of the Fourth came a message stating that Mrs. Rackett had died during the night. She was brought to Guilford and buried beside her husband.

The homestead now passed into the hands of one and another of Guilford residents until 1917 when it was purchased by Andrew A. Benton of New York. He was not a descendant of the builder of the house but did belong to the same family and bought it for reasons of sentiment, wishing to preserve it and keep it in the Benton name.

Then came the World War, interrupting all normal undertakings. To it was sacrificed the life of the new owner. Although he had passed the age for actual enlistment, Mr. Benton was an expert accountant and his energies were devoted to the task of putting on the liberty loans. His overtaxed brain gave way and his life was abruptly closed.

The property then reverted to Andrew A. Benton's father, Arthur H. Benton of Minneapolis, formerly of Omaha. At his age it was impracticable to carry out his son's plan to restore and occupy the house. Accordingly he sold it in 1921 to Harry Durant who has developed the old mansion into a charming and attractive home.



### *Philemon Hall House*

THIS house, on a hillside west side of the Long Hill Road, was originally the home of a branch of the Hall family, a name early found in Guilford. Mary Hyland, a daughter of George Hyland, whose home was the Hyland House, married Deacon Thomas Hall. Their son, John Hall, on May 30, 1780, deeded this place to his son, Philemon Hall,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres "where Philemon now dwelleth", "for and toward his advancement in the world". Philemon Hall had married Sarah Page in 1756, about which time this house was probably built.

Philemon Hall rejoiced in the title to his home for twenty years. He died in 1800, the year after the death of his son, Thomas Hall. The latter's son, Joel Hall, removed to Washington, Penn., where he was living in 1818 when he sold the place to John Walker. Four years later it passed into the hands of Hezekiah L. Partridge, then to Dennison Chittenden, then to Calvin Crampton in 1842.

Betsy Crampton, widow of Calvin Crampton, owned the house until 1877 so it was long known as the Crampton place.

In 1877 Betsy Crampton sold the house to the Stone family. William L. Stone, on October 20, 1919, sold house and land to the Bishop Brothers of West Side.

A peculiarity of the house is the outward slant of the front wall, an examination of the sills and frame revealing that it was built thus. A traditional explanation is that the slant was intended to protect the house from the drip of the eaves.

### *Four Elms House*

THE LAND on the south side of Water Street, the site of I. O. O. F. Hall owned by Menuncatuck Lodge and the site of the old house long known as the Four Elms House, originally belonged to the home lot of the Rev. Joseph Eliot, on the corner lot of which now stands the Guilford Theater.

This house was the home of Wyllys Eliot, son of Abial Eliot who lived in the house formerly on the theater site. Wyllys Eliot married in 1763 Abigail Ward, widow of Dr. Giles Hull who had died in 1759 of measles while with the army at Ticonderoga during the French and Indian War. The oldest son of Wyllys and Abigail Eliot was Samuel Eliot, born 1764. He was only thirteen years old when his father died. Abigail Eliot afterward married a third husband, Samuel Parmelee. This homestead was quit-claimed to Samuel Eliot by his brother and sisters.

On October 8, 1796, Samuel Eliot sold to Peletiah Leete this house and 100 rods of land, bounded on the north by the highway leading from the "Public Square" to Jones's Bridge, and on the east by Nathaniel Eliot's land.

Peletiah Leete migrated to "York State", selling this place on January 8, 1817, to Stephen Griswold. The buildings thereon included a blacksmith shop.

Stephen Griswold was a son of Ebenezer Griswold of Killingworth (Clinton), a great grandson of Michael Griswold of Wethersfield. He married in 1805 Nabby Crampton of East Guilford. At his death in 1851 the homestead passed to his son, Deacon Leverett Griswold, 1806-1890.

Deacon Leverett Griswold married Lavinia Stone, one of three daughters of Augustus Stone and Electa Collins, whose

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home is now the Travelers Rest at West Side. She was a sister of Electa Maria Stone, third wife of Jonathan Bishop of State Street, and of Amanda Elizabeth Stone. The latter outlived both Deacon Leverett Griswold and his wife, with whom she had made her home. As they left no children the place became hers.

On February 21, 1894, George W. Hill, acting for Amanda E. Stone, sold the house, barn and shop and one acre of land to Menuncatuck Lodge, I. O. O. F., reserving the use of the west half of the premises to Amanda E. Stone.

After her death, Menuncatuck Lodge, having built I. O. O. F. Hall on the east part of the land, sold the house to Addie A. Chittenden on March 26, 1898. Mrs. Chittenden, who had been conducting the hotel in the old house on the site of J. Harrison Monroe's Pharmacy, named the old Eliot house the Four Elms House and kept a boarding house there.

### *The Island House*

ON an island, formed by West River and its arm at West Side, stands a house now the home of Miss Lottie Norton. Built in 1790, it was originally a Fowler house, but the name of Fowler long since disappeared from this section.

A deed of January 19, 1790, from Andrew Fowler, Sr., conveyed to a son, Jonathan Fowler, one-half acre of land at the Mill Pasture with a new house, partly finished, the whole valued at 500 pounds, "in consideration of five years service". It was the house of this story.

Andrew Fowler, Sr., was a great grandson of Deacon John Fowler who came to Guilford from Milford before 1648 and had his home lot on the corner of Broad and Fair Streets, where George F. Walter now lives. To Andrew's grandfather, John Fowler, Jr., in the sixth division of land in 1730, had been set land at the Mill Pasture which included this island. It had passed through the hands of his father, Benjamin Fowler, and so to Andrew.

Andrew Fowler married Martha Stone and they were parents of seven sons and three daughters. In 1767 Andrew Fowler, Sr., bought of Mark Hodgkiss his home near Barn Brook on the Dunk Rock Road. How long he lived there has not been ascertained but that he disposed of it seems certain for in 1807 he sold to Solomon Stone another homestead which, as the boundaries given in the deed disclose, stood on the site of the present home of R. Walter Bishop, for it was bounded on three sides by the highway and on the east by the home lot of Ambrose Chittenden, opposite the present entrance to Riverside Cemetery.

Jared Fowler, oldest son of Andrew and Martha Fowler, died at the age of 23 years. His brother, Jonathan Fowler,

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whose home this island homestead was, deeded it to his brother, James Fowler, in 1799, and migrated to the Ohio Valley. On April 12, 1806, being then of Poland, Ohio, he was drowned in the Ohio River.

James Fowler passed on the title to the island homestead to another brother, Chauncey Fowler, who died in 1802. Another brother, Bela Fowler, whose home was the present residence of Burton W. Bishop, was administrator of his estate and sold the property to Charles Collins.

The oldest brother of this family was the Rev. Andrew Fowler, of whom mention should be made although he had no connection with the island house. He was graduated from Yale College in 1783, and was a member of a Congregational family. Yet he became a member of the Episcopal Church, probably through the influence of the Rev. Bela Hubbard, also a native of Guilford, who was then in charge of the Episcopal Churches in New Haven and West Haven.

Because of his loyalty to the Church of England, which included allegiance to the King of England, Andrew Fowler, Jr., was one of the Tories cited to appear in the old Town House on Guilford Green and undergo examination by a committee appointed by the General Assembly of 1780. Pronounced inimical and dangerous persons, it was ordered that their names be inscribed as such on the town records. The order was obeyed but an astute town clerk wrote the names on a fly leaf of the book. In 1790, good judgment having regained sway, the list of names was ordered expunged from the records and this was accomplished by the simple process of tearing out the fly leaf.

The Rev. Andrew Fowler died in Charleston, S. C., in 1850. He had presented for confirmation in the Protestant Episcopal Church the first class ever gathered in that State.

Charles Collins, the new owner of the island house, was a bachelor and had an unmarried niece, Cynthia Collins, daughter of his deceased brother, John Thomas Collins, who made her home with him.



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Charles Collins, in partnership with George Landon, conducted a country store on these premises. It is believed that the building now doing duty as a woodshed housed the store as there is evidence that it was drawn to its present position. Probably it stood nearer the street.

In 1815, at the age of 43, Charles Collins made his will, making his niece, Cynthia, and his partner, George Landon, joint owners of the homestead. Two days later he added to his will a codicil, bequeathing to his niece the house and lot and to his partner \$300 in lieu thereof.

There were bequests to other nieces, Hannah Collins, wife of Phineas Shelley of Guilford, and Clarissa Johnson, wife of the Rev. Ashbel Baldwin of Stratford. To the Episcopal Society in Guilford he left the sum of \$1,000, the interest to be applied annually to the support of an Episcopal clergyman in said society and the principal to remain forever as a fund. The will was probated in 1823. In 1923 a warden of the church stated that the fund did not then exist and no one living knew what had become of it.

As her uncle had sheltered her all her life, so did Cynthia Collins take her nephew, John Collins Shelley, to live with her. Each remained unmarried. The general store had disappeared but Miss Cynthia kept in the corner cupboard in the front room a little store of candy which she sold to the children of the neighborhood. She died in 1852, leaving the homestead to her nephew who was then forty years of age.

Then, if not before, John Collins Shelley brought his mother Hannah Collins Shelley, to live in the island house. She lived until 1861 when her clothing caught fire from the front room fireplace and she was burned to death.

Sudden death came to John Collins Shelley also. He was driving his horse in Fair Street when it took fright and ran away, injuries then incurred resulting in his death. His estate was administered by his brother, Samuel Shelley, who sold the homestead in 1870 to William Nelson Norton, father of Miss Lottie Norton, the present occupant.



### *Franklin Phelps House*

**I**N MAY, 1925, Guilford Public Health Nurse Association bought from Byron H. Benton the house in State Street which had been known for many years as the Franklin Phelps house, the home of the man who was postmaster of Guilford from 1856 to 1861 and again from 1865 to 1869.

The house was built in 1828 as the home of Chloe Munger who came here from Madison. On May 27, 1828, Miles Munger, whose home was in the triangle bounded by State and Union Streets and Market Place, deeded to his sister, Chloe Munger of Madison, the northwest corner of his home lot or garden, and there was built the house which was her home until her death in 1842, when her heirs deeded the house and land back to Miles Munger.

The original home lot was enlarged by the Borough of Guilford, which, on April 17, 1837, permitted Miles and Chloe Munger to enclose land in front of their land, the line to run from the northwest corner of John Davis's house (now Mrs. Elizabeth Bristol's) to the southwest corner of Henry Benton's house (Henry Beckwith's), the north line to range with the north end of Chloe Munger's house, the south line with Pent Road (road having a gate), the south fork of Union Street.

Miles Munger's ownership originated in his wife's inheritance. His wife was Rachel Grumbley, daughter of John Grumbley and Elizabeth Griffing Grumbley.

In 1801 Joel and Nathaniel Griffing, sons of Jasper Griffing, deeded to their half-sister, Elizabeth, wife of John Grumbley, the house and lot where her last years were spent. The lot was bounded on the south by the highway, by Samuel Johnson's

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Sabbath Day House and by the potash house and wood yard of the Griffings.

Jasper Griffing, a native of Southold, Long Island, was known as "the Commodore" on account of adventures at sea and a narrow escape from capture at Louisburg, Cape Breton, during "King George's War". He married, first, Mindwell Stone, a daughter of Sergeant Joseph Stone, and evidence of the land records tends to show that this land came to the Griffings through the Stone line. His second wife was Rachel Lee,

The late Mrs. Julia Woodward, whose childhood, as the daughter of Nathan Brooks, was spent in a house on the site of Mrs. George H. Parmelee's, remembered the aged Widow Elizabeth Grumbley living in a three-story house standing east of the present house, formerly the home of Andrew J. Benton and later of Henry Beckwith, on the north side of Market Place.

In 1805 the triangular plot, bounded on all sides by streets, contained two dwellings, one the home of Samuel Grumbley, the other the home of Rachel Grumbley, wife of Miles Munger. These were children of John and Elizabeth Grumbley. Both houses probably faced on "Pent Road", the Munger house being east of Samuel Grumbley's.

Emmeline Munger, daughter of Miles and Rachel Munger, married Franklin Phelps in 1825. Doubtless they made their home in the house of their aunt, Chloe Munger, after her death in 1842.

Franklin Phelps came to Guilford from New Berlin, N. Y. He died in 1873, aged 70 years. His wife's brothers deeded to her, Emmeline Munger Phelps, the homestead of their father, Miles Munger. When the two houses, homes of Miles Munger and Samuel Grumbley, disappeared from the triangle, is not recorded but one of them is remembered by persons yet living.

The adopted daughter of Franklin and Emmeline Phelps was the latter's niece, Henrietta, who married Sylvester Bennett and inherited the homestead of her adopted parents. Thus the property descended for four generations through the female line, Elizabeth Grumbley, Rachel Munger, Emmeline

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Phelps and Henrietta Bennett, an unusual record in this town of old houses. After the Bennett family ceased to live there the place passed through several ownerships until it was bought by the Guilford Public Health Nurse Association.

An ancient map of Guilford locates some Sabbath Day houses on this triangle. Miles Munger bought these from Calvin Frisbie of Branford, Friend Collins, and the Parmelees, John, Joel and Harriet, of Guilford, in 1837, shortly before the Borough of Guilford consented to the enclosure of land in front by the Mungers. By 1837 the need of Sabbath Day houses for shelter "between meetings" on Sundays by dwellers in the "out lands" was passing.

### *Major Lathrop's Four Chimneys*

WHEN General Lafayette was dining in 1824 at the Minor Bradley Tavern on the northwest corner of Guilford Green, a little girl, Clara Stone, swinging on a gate across the street to see the great man come forth from the tavern, heard Major Lathrop, a member of the reception committee, say to Lafayette with much pride, "The house with four chimneys that you see across the Green is — er — mine." Although the four chimneys are no longer to be counted, the same house stands there today, the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. DeWitt Smith, though it lacks the rows of boxwood that once guarded the path to its door. Jedidiah Lathrop owned the property from 1796 to 1854 and built the present house about 1815.

The sixth signer of the Plantation Covenant, drawn up on shipboard by Henry Whitfield and his followers in mid-Atlantic in 1639, was Thomas Jones. And when Menuncatuck had been purchased from the Indians and the home lots assigned Thomas Jones had two acres east side of Guilford Green, north of John Bishop. This home lot extended north to Union Street, Broad Street stopping at State Street.

Thomas Jones appears to have left Guilford before 1652, and is believed to have died of small pox in England or Scotland. At all events, Lieutenant William Chittenden, agent for Thomas Jones, sold the lands in Guilford on March 4, 1667-8, to John Meigs, formerly of New Haven.

A deed of 1712 conveyed the property from Meigs to Captain Andrew Ward (3) who had come to Guilford in 1690 with his mother, Tryal Meigs, daughter of John Meigs, Sr., his father, Andrew Ward (2) of Stamford, having died presumably. The first Andrew Ward had settled in Wethersfield and was the first judge of Hartford County Court.

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Captain Andrew Ward, 3rd, married Deborah Joy, daughter of Jacob Joy of Fairfield and Killingworth (Clinton). Among their numerous children were three sons; Colonel Andrew Ward the 4th, an officer in the French and Indian War, who married Elizabeth Fowler (Madame Ward); the Rev. Edmund Ward, who married Mehitable Robinson and was the first pastor of the old Fourth Church; Samuel Ward who married Lucy Pendleton and lived in Philadelphia.

Captain Andrew Ward, 3rd, in 1731, divided this home lot among these three sons. His own dwelling, bounded north by the town pound, with one acre of the home lot, was deeded to Samuel. One acre of the home lot on the south side, next to John Bishop, was deeded to Edmund. And to Colonel Andrew Ward, 4th, "the house in which he now dwells" was deeded with two acres, all the land adjoining not already given to the other sons. The house in which the father had lived is shown in Angeline Bassett's sketch made in 1830 and stood approximately on land now part of the Library lot. The other house, in which Colonel Andrew Ward, 4th, lived, doubtless disappeared when Major Lathrop built the present house.

In 1739 Captain Andrew Ward, 3rd, sold to Stephen Spencer, blacksmith, three acres, formerly the estate of Sergeant John Bishop, deceased, south of Edmund Ward's land. In 1742 Stephen Spencer sold a strip of land on the north of this lot to Edmund Ward and in 1754 he sold to Lewis Fairchild a small dwelling, where the Third Church was afterward built, having built for himself a new house, now the residence of Elias P. Bates.

Edmund Ward was graduated from Yale College in 1727 and was ordained pastor of the Fourth Church on September 21, 1733, but was dismissed in 1735. His house at Sachem's Head is described in the story of The Great Ox Pasture.

The homestead beside the Green passed in 1765, after various real estate transactions, into the hands of Nathaniel Caldwell, son-in-law of Edmund and Mehitable Ward. Nathaniel Caldwell sold the place to Jedidiah Lathrop on October

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30, 1796. The deeds constantly describe the property as "near the Meeting House".

The old house on the north, formerly the home of Captain Andrew Ward, 3rd, was afterward the home of Asher Fairchild, son of Samuel Fairchild of Durham, who married Thankful Hubbard, 1761, and was lost at sea 1795. His daughter, Harriott, married Jeremy Hoadley, and they were the ancestors of Dr. Charles Hoadley of Hartford, for many years state librarian.

Major Jedidiah Lathrop was master of St. Alban's Lodge, A. F. & A. M., 1812-13; warden of Christ Episcopal Church, 1820; warden of the Borough of Guilford, 1828-30. He sold the homestead to Ralph D. Smith in 1854 and died in 1859.

Ralph D. Smith, grandfather of Dr. Bernard C. Steiner, resided there until his death in 1874. A complete sketch of his life is given in his grandson's volume, "History of Guilford and Madison. The house and lot passed to his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Smith, wife of Lewis C. Steiner, who sold it in 1896, to George H. Beebe, M. D. Dr. and Mrs. F. DeWitt Smith succeeded the Beebe family as owners.



## *The Woodward Tavern*

UNTIL the summer of 1925 there stood, on the present site of Douden's Drug Store, a house that had been, in earlier years, Woodward's Tavern, the last to survive of Guilford's old-time hostelries. Mr. and Mrs. William Hotchkiss were the last owners and occupants of the house.

In the early settlement of Guilford four men had home lots on the west side of Guilford Green. George Bartlett was located on the "Hotel Corner". Next north was Henry Goldam, while Thomas French owned the present Bonzano property and Edward Benton was on the northwest corner.

Henry Goldam came early to Guilford, though not with the Whitfield party. He died in 1661, leaving his house and land to his daughter, Susannah, wife of John Bishop.

John Bishop died in 1683. The Widow Susannah Bishop in 1696 conveyed to her son, Daniel Bishop, the homestead of his grandfather, Henry Goldam.

At this time the town was settling a new pastor, the Rev. Thomas Ruggles from Roxbury, Mass., to succeed the late Rev. Joseph Eliot. It was customary, in settling a pastor, to bestow upon him house and lands and Mr. Ruggles was given the house lot in Petticoat Lane (Fair Street) recently bought by the town from Goodman Cook. This lot was located on the west side of Fair Street and extended from the Country Road (York Street) south as far as the residence of the late Mrs. Mary Bishop, originally the Joseph Chittenden house. Mr. Ruggles was not content with this location and on March 6, 1696, exchanged dwellings with Daniel Bishop. Thereafter Mr. Ruggles lived on the west side of the Green, not far from

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the old stone meeting house on the Green where he preached, and Daniel Bishop lived in Petticoat Lane.

The Rev. Thomas Ruggles, Sr., died on June 1, 1728. The inventory of his estate mentions an old house valued at five pounds, which may have been the original house on the property, Henry Goldam's, described in Steiner's History as having stood in the rear of the Isbell house, which was the Woodward Tavern.

The elder Ruggles left two sons, the Rev. Thomas Ruggles, who followed his father into the ministry, and Dr. Nathaniel Ruggles, the town physician. To the latter was left the paternal homestead. The doctor's daughter, Huldah Ruggles, married Rosewell Woodward in 1774, and so the Woodward name enters the story.

Rosewell Woodward first owned a small house which stood near the present site of Mrs. Eva B. Leete's home. This he sold in 1782 and in 1783 bought from his father-in-law the north-east corner of the Ruggles home lot, Dr. Ruggles giving him the right "to pass and repass northward of my dwelling to the rear of said tract", said tract having a frontage of only 20 feet.

In 1792 Rosewell Woodward bought, from Dr. Ruggles, another bit of land in the rear of his first purchase. In 1794 Dr. Ruggles died. The administrators of the estate were Rosewell Woodward and Nathaniel Rossiter. Through the medium of Thomas Ruggles Pyncheon, next neighbor on the north, Rosewell Woodward bought the homestead. Now he was ready to build the Woodward Tavern.

Rosewell Woodward was a son of William Woodward of Guilford and a grandson of the Rev. John Woodward of Dedham, Mass., of Norwich, and finally of New Haven. The first wife of the Rev. John Woodward was Sarah Rosewell, whose surname came down in the family as a given name.

Miss Lydia Chittenden recalled that the ball room of Woodward's Tavern was located in a smaller building which stood on the present site of the Times Building. This ball room was later the hardware store of E. H. Butler and stands now,

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dilapidated and used only as a store room, in the rear of the Times Building. A card of invitation, dated June, 1800, to a ball at Woodward's Tavern, sent to Miss Clarissa Caldwell, was an exhibit in the Henry Whitfield State Historical Museum. It stated that dancing would begin at six o'clock and was signed by several young men of the town.

Next south of the Woodward place was the house of Dr. Elisha Hutchinson. A fine old house it was, with a piazza, and stood on the site of Music Hall Building, originally part of a factory at Jones's Bridge and now owned by Eliot E. Davis. Congress Hall, which was burned in 1862, occupied this site. The old well of the Hutchinson house is located in the cellar of Music Hall Building.

Dr. Hutchinson had a daughter, Marietta, and of her admirer he disapproved. When the young man called, he sat on the piazza outside the window inside which sat Miss Marietta. The courtship, for some reason, did not result in a wedding. The family removed later to New York.

Rosewell Woodward died in 1807, at the age of 57 years. He willed his homestead to remain undivided among his three sons. The oldest son, John, was to have the first chance to take over the entire homestead, buying out his brothers' rights. Should John decline, it was David's privilege. Failing that, it was Rosewell, Jr.'s chance. Rosewell, Jr., became the next owner.

The Widow Woodward survived her husband until 1827. Seven years later, in 1834, her son, Rosewell Woodward, and his wife, Catherine Eliot, were living in Georgetown, D. C. The homestead in Guilford was sold to William and John Hale on August 9, 1837.

During the following winter, 1837-8, a Methodist missionary came to Guilford and organized a society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. John and William Hale became active members and deeded to the society the land upon which the Methodist Church was immediately built. This building is

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now owned by Paul Cianciolo and has been converted into a store, occupied as the Ben Franklin Store.

The Woodward homestead, which had ceased to be a tavern after the death of the elder Woodward, continued in the Hale family through the lifetime of Kate Hale Isbell, wife of William Isbell, and was later owned, as has been stated, by her nephew, William Hotchkiss. He sold it to Frank F. Douden on July 1, 1925, and the house was taken down to make way for Douden's new Drug Store.

### *Minor Bradley Tavern*

THE lot at the northwest corner of Guilford Green, on which the late Miss Lydia Chittenden built, in 1886, the present dwelling, now long unoccupied, was a part of the home lot set to Edward Benton, an early settler, who came, perhaps from Milford, to live in Guilford and died here in 1680.

The house known as the Minor Bradley Tavern, torn down to be replaced by Miss Lydia Chittenden's modern dwelling, was built in 1750 during the ownership of Simeon DeWolf.

When the land passed from the Benton name to the Stone family has not been ascertained but it was early for in 1724 the five sons of Lieutenant Nathaniel Stone, grandson of Samuel Stone, divided the property of their deceased father and set this lot to Joseph Stone. Joseph Stone's daughter, Mindwell, was the first wife of Jasper Griffing and, in 1748, Jasper and Mindwell Griffing sold eight rods, "the northern part of our home lot" to Simeon DeWolf, no house being specified in the deed. On March 4, 1751, when Simeon DeWolf sold the property to Abraham Bradley, a new dwelling house was mentioned in the deed, and the price had risen from 150 pounds to 965 pounds. Abraham Bradley profited by the transaction as he sold the place, in 1753, to Daniel Stone for 1,200 pounds.

Daniel Stone was a distant cousin of the earlier owners of that name, being of the fifth generation from Samuel Stone. His estate was distributed in 1790 and his dwelling house was set to a son, Medad Stone. To these eight rods Medad Stone soon added 19 $\frac{1}{3}$  rods on the south, which he bought from Jasper Griffing and his children, they being Stone descendants.

Medad Stone was a brother of Thankful, first wife of Solomon Stone of Fair Street, and of Leah, wife of Henry Hill at



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the south side of Guilford Green. He made of his home a "Tavern House", too late for the visit to Guilford of General Lafayette who was entertained then at Brown's Tavern, farther down the west side of the Green. Although General Lafayette visited Guilford again in 1825 and was entertained beneath this roof-tree, Medad Stone was no longer living to act as host. That responsibility fell upon Minor Bradley, who had bought the "Tavern House" from Mary Griffing Stone, widow of Medad Stone, and her son-in-law and daughter, Rosewell and Sally Bartholomew, in 1822.

The stage coach pulled up at this hospitable door on its way from New Haven to points east, or returning, and the stage coach road ran diagonally through the Green, past the "Old Temple" or second edifice of the First Congregational Society of Guilford. The signboard of the Minor Bradley Tavern, with its pictured stage coach, later found its way to the Henry Whitfield State Historical Museum.

Minor Bradley was thrice married but his children were all mothered by his first wife, Acsah Bishop, who died in 1814. In 1815 he married Phebe Hull, who died in 1847, and in 1848 he married the Widow Parnel Munger, who died in 1860, two years before his own death. He was a son of Simri Bradley of Madison and a great great grandson of Stephen Bradley who had lived in Guilford.

Of the seven children of Minor Bradley, only two attained adult years, Caroline and Harriet, who died 1876 and 1878, respectively. Dr. Frederick P. Griswold bought the place from the Estate of Harriet Bradley in 1882 and sold it in 1885, when he moved to Meriden. As has been stated Miss Lydia Chittenden had the old house torn down and the present one built. Here she lived until her death, leaving the house to the First Congregational Church which, not needing it as a parsonage, sold it to the present owners.



### *Little Journey Of A Great Man*

ONE June day in 1805 a covered wagon passed out of Crooked Lane, Guilford, and turned westward along the Post Road. The oxen which drew the wagon were driven by Benjamin Hall, whose family and worldly goods were within that canvas cover. A family was migrating to "York State".

Benjamin Hall, son of Benjamin Hall and grandson of Ebenezer Hall and Deborah Hyland, was of the fifth generation from the settler, William Hall, who had come from Kent, England, with the Whitfield Company in 1639. Born in 1755, he was leaving his native town, at the age of fifty years to migrate to the frontier of New York State.

The Legislature of "York State" had set apart 2,000,000 acres in the heart of the State to be divided as bounty to soldiers who had taken part in the Revolutionary War. This so-called "Military Tract" was divided into townships which were sprinkled with classical names. Thither were hastening many of the ambitious and progressive people of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Benjamin Hall, ex-soldier, came to the end of his journey in the town of Homer, county of Onondaga, by the beautiful Susquehanna. The old homestead back in State Street, Guilford, had been sold by him and his maiden sisters, Judith and Hannah Hall, to William Starr, whose descendants yet own the property.

In the new home in the new land, Ruth, daughter of Benjamin Hall, met and married Andrew Dickson, a settler from the town of Middlefield, Mass. A daughter was born to them, Clara Dickson, who became the wife of Horace White. He also was of Massachusetts stock, a son of Asa White and Clara Keep from Monson, Mass.

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To Horace White and Clara Dickson, his wife, was born, on November 7, 1832, a son, Andrew Dickson White. The name of his grandfather was conferred upon him but the spirit of his grandmother was born within him. The child was to be, in later years, one of the wisest of America's diplomats, one of the greatest of American educators, one of the keenest of America's thinking men; so great a man, withal, as to be utterly unconscious of his own greatness, which is the highest pinnacle of human achievement.

In September, 1917, 112 years after the slow and ponderous outfit of Benjamin Hall had journeyed out of Guilford, a swift and luxurious touring car rolled into the ancient town over the State highway. It brought Benjamin Hall's great grandson, the first of the family to come back for a look at the ancestral town.

At the age of 85 years and near the close of a long, active and distinguished life, Dr. Andrew Dickson White was realizing the intention of a lifetime. He was seeing for himself the old town which had been unforgettably impressed upon his memory by his grandmother, Ruth Hall. With him were his wife, formerly Helen McGill, and their daughter, Karin Andre-erna, born in Finland twenty-four years earlier.

Ruth Hall had left a townful of kinsfolk and acquaintance when she departed from Guilford in 1805. Her grandson, returning in 1917 to look reverently upon the scenes of his grandmother's youth, could find no person living who remembered Ruth Hall, no person, then, who could point out to him her birthplace. He came with the honors of the nations, the laurels of the world of letters, the friendship of kings and emperors heaped upon him. Yet scarcely a person in Guilford knew that Dr. Andrew Dickson White, former minister to Russia, former ambassador to Germany, former president of Cornell University, leader of the American delegation to the peace conference at the Hague, was a grandson of Ruth Hall and therefore a kinsman and descendant of Guilford families.





MINOR BRADLEY TAVERN, 1750-1885



MAJOR LATHROP'S FOUR-CHIMNEY HOUSE MINUS TWO CHIMNEYS





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Had Andrew Dickson White visited Guilford during his years at Yale College, New Haven, only sixteen miles distant, the case might have been otherwise. In the early 1850's people were living who would have remembered Ruth Hall. In 1917 it was too late.

However, Dr. White could see Guilford Green, beneath the turf of which four generations of his ancestors lay. He could look upon the spot where once stood the original Episcopal Church, a tiny wooden building, wherein Ruth Hall, herself trained in the strictness of the Congregational Church founded by the Rev. Henry Whitfield, had been so much impressed by the Christmas Eve service with its chants and carols, the white-robed priest, the greenery of mountain laurel and the box and the pine together.

He could look upon the seacoast which Benjamin Hall, a youth of 21 years, had patrolled as a Minute Man of the Revolution. He could visit the tomb of Fitz-Greene Halleck, America's poet, dead for fifty years yet "one of the few, the immortal names that were not born to die." Ruth Hall had recounted the great honor she had thought it when the future poet, a small boy, was brought, from time to time, into the school which she attended, and the respect and admiration with which she regarded his later career as a leading poet of America in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Dr. White brought with him to Guilford other memories cherished by Ruth Hall of her ancestral home. The great fireplace in the old home had held a kettle hanging from the crane. Hungry children had helped themselves to boiled lobsters from this kettle to "piece out" between meals.

There was, too, the "grand lady" of Guilford, a Mrs. Leete who had deeply impressed the young girl, Ruth Hall, yet whose identity could not, in 1917, be determined, so many women had borne that name.

Benjamin Hall and his family experienced many hardships, much toil, privation and suffering on the frontier. Wolves howled in winter about the houses of the village of Homer.

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Flour was brought from the mill by a day's journey through the trackless forest. Church attendance meant a ride of twenty miles on horseback. But those lean, hard years brought results. The wilderness was made to blossom as the rose.

By the time that Ruth Hall's grandson was in his impressionable years the village of Homer was a pretty place. A Green formed the center, even as in Guilford. Likewise as in Guilford, upon the Green stood the church and the academy. Maple trees shaded the broad main street. Beyond the stores and tavern were large, pleasant dwellings, each with its own garden and orchard and its fence in front.

The house in which Dr. Andrew Dickson White was born was described by him as a large, brick house in Colonial style, its southern stoop shaded by honeysuckles. Old fashioned flowers bloomed in the large garden, brought, who shall say from what gardens of Massachusetts and Connecticut, even as English foremothers, sailing for America's distant shore, brought with them seeds and roots of beloved posies from gardens they could never see again.

Ruth Hall Dickson had died in 1865 at the age of 76 years. But she had lived to see her beloved grandson, by whom she was so reverently remembered, well started in the path which led him to heights of distinction as a leader in the thought of a nation and of the world. She saw him graduated with honors by Yale in 1853; become an attache to the American legation at St. Petersburg (Petrograd); professor of history at the University of Michigan; a writer of articles for high-class publications; State Senator at Albany. And her spirit may have visualized the future that was to be his after she had passed from earth.

No small part did she have in the formation of her grandson's character. It was she who refused to allow the young boy in the streets after dark, even to the point of going forth herself to bring him in, and so taught law, order and restraint. Hers were the broad-minded faith and trust that enabled her to look up from the harsh Calvinism of the time to say, "There

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is, of course, some merciful way out of it all." So, Dr. Andrew Dickson White believed, through all the horror of the European war, that it would result in the establishment of an international peace tribunal of permanent working value.

The visit to Guilford was made none too soon. In 1918, the following year, and one week before the signing of the Armistice, Dr. White died, leaving the world a better, happier, and richer place, because he had lived in it.



















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